





# Technical Bulletin for: Squash Vine Borer

*Melittia cucurbitae* (Harris) • Lepidoptera, Sesiidae • MELCUC



<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	United States, primarily East of the Rocky Mountains
<b>HOSTS</b>	Cucurbits, especially squash, zucchini, pumpkins, and gourds, rarely found on cucumbers or melons.
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>ADULT MOTH</b>	Dull orange abdomen with black dots. The forewings are black fringed with olive-green. They are about 19 to 25 mm long with a wingspan of 25-38 mm.
<b>LARVAE</b>	Yellowish-white with a brown head, about 25 mm long at maturity.
<b>EGGS</b>	Bronze, football-shaped, about 1 mm in diameter.
<b>LIFE HISTORY</b>	Adult moths emerge from the pupae about the time vine crops come up. The moths are active daytime flyers and are often mistaken for wasps. Eggs are laid individually and glued to stems and leafstalks near the base of the plant. The young borers enter the plant about two weeks later and begin feeding on the inner tissues. The larvae feed for about one month. If an infected vine is split open, it will be hollowed out and partially filled with frass. Late in the season, borers may be found throughout the plant stem and in the fruits. When fully mature, the larvae leave the stems and make cocoons in the soil. The larvae usually overwinter in the cocoons, changing to pupae the following spring.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

<b>LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE &amp; FIELD LIFE</b>	(E,Z)-2,13-Octadecadienyl acetate and (Z,Z)-3,13-Octadecadienyl acetate on a red rubber septum. Field life: four (4) weeks.
<b>TRAP TO USE</b>	Paper or Plastic Delta  or Uni-Trap 
<b>MONITORING STRATEGY</b>	This pest is active in late June into July, therefore place traps outside the gardens in early June. Coverage: 1 to 2 traps per 10 acres. This may be increased to 4 to 5 traps for heavy infestations per 10 acres. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
<b>CULTURAL &amp; PHYSICAL CONTROLS</b>	Disking or plowing to destroy vines soon after harvest and bury or destroy overwintering cocoons reduces moth populations within a field the following spring. Staggering plantings over several dates also allows some plantings to escape heaviest periods of egg-laying. Cover the lower 1 m of the stems with a barrier such as cheese cloth or strips of nylon stockings to prevent egg-laying.

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