



Technical Bulletin



Striped Cucumber Beetle

Acalymma vittatum (Linnaeus) • Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae • ACAVIT



DISTRIBUTION	Native to Central and South America and southern United States – range now extends north to Canada, but the pest remains most active in its southern range.
HOSTS	Primary hosts include cucumber, cantaloupes, corn, winter squash, pumpkin and watermelon.
DESCRIPTION	
Adult Moth	Oblong, yellowish green, marked by three black stripes, about 6.35 mm in length.
Larvae	White with a brown head, about 7.62 mm in length.
Eggs	Oval, orange-yellow in color, and are found in clusters of 25-50 on undersides of host leaves
LIFE HISTORY	The adults hibernate under garden debris, or if such protection is not available, they will burrow into the soil below the frost line. Adults emerge from April to June, usually before the cucurbit plants emerge, and feed on pollen from flowers of apple, horse chestnut, lilac and others. When squash and cucumbers start to shoot up the beetles quickly congregate on them. Larvae feed on host roots weakening the plant. They are also vectors a serious cucurbit disease known as bacterial wilt. Beetles also spread squash mosaic virus.

MONITORING INFORMATION

LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE & FIELD LIFE	Indole, trans-cinnamaldehyde and 1,2,4-trimethoxybenzene in a coaster lure packet. Lure Longevity: Thirty (30) days.	
TRAP TO USE	Yellow sticky card	
MONITORING STRATEGY	Sticky traps should be placed horizontally near plants spaced at least 100 feet apart over a field. The number beetles on traps is recorded each time the traps are changed. The traps are typically changed every seven days but can last 30 or more days without significant reduction in catching ability. Since adult emergence can stretch over a period of 6-9 weeks, the traps should remain in the field for 6-9 weeks. If the economic threshold for yellow sticky traps of 6 beetles per day is reached there is a high potential for problems the following spring.	
CULTURAL & PHYSICAL CONTROL	Growers can avoid the most significant damage by delaying the planting of summer cucurbits by a few weeks. Always practice clean and thorough cultivation after fall harvests. Cornell University suggests deep tillage, compost application, and cover-cropping in the fall to encourage decomposition of residue which may harbor beetles in winter months. Any diseased plant matter should be burned or otherwise discarded rather than composted for future use.	

Alpha Scents, Inc.
insect monitoring systems

Alpha Scents, Inc., 360 S Sequoia Pkwy. Canby, OR 97013
TEL: 503-342-8611 • FAX: 314-271-7297 • sales@alphascents.com • www.alphascents.com