Tips for Managing Striped Cucumber Beetles

Description

- **Adults:** About 1/5 inch long, black head, yellow with three black stripes that reach to the ends of the forewings.
- **Eggs:** Orange-yellow, laid near the base of host plants.
- **Larvae:** Slender, white, dark on each end. Grows to about 1/3 inch long.

Prevention

- **Delay planting** cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, and melons until after early season striped cucumber beetle activity.
- **Use transplants** to allow plants to reach a later growth stage before beetles arrive.
- **Plant wilt-resistant varieties.**
- **Remove other hosts**, such as goldenrod and aster, growing nearby.
- **Remove plant debris** from the garden.

Management

- **Cover up** - Before adults show up (early to mid-June), put floating row cover (e.g. Remay® or Typar®) or cheesecloth over plants or shrubs. Remove covers during flowering to permit pollination.
- **Look for adults** daily on flowers, leaves, and stems.
• Handpick adults in the early morning and place into a bucket of soapy water.

Least Risk Pesticides
• Limit use of pesticides to protect natural predators (e.g. soldier beetles, tachinid flies, braconid wasps, certain nematodes).
• When beetles arrive apply pyrethrins (e.g. Pyganic®) or kaolin (e.g. Surround®) to repel beetles. (No product endorsement is implied.)
• Do not use chemical pesticides if foraging bees are present.

Further Management Options
Contact the Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office (1-800-287-0279), your county Extension office, or visit http://www.gotpests.org/.

Photo credits: Adult: David N. Ferro, University of Massachusetts; Larvae: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/ipmcouncil

Promoting least risk pest control for a greener environment.

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