

## Vegetable Pest Alert

July 29, 2023

**Stink bugs** are active. Various types of stink bugs (brown, brown marmorated, green) feed on blossoms, buds and fruit on a wide range of vegetables, fruits and weeds. Look for adults, eggs and nymphs and for damage. Insecticides labeled for stink bugs (without species indicated) may be used for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug. For spray options, click [New England Vegetable Management Guide](#).



Damage on tomato fruit may look like golden flecks but with white centers and not uniform. Brown Marmorated Stink Bugs feeding on cucumber (right).

**Squash vine borers** continue to be active. One farm in Berlin, CT captured 4 adults in a Scentry Heliiothis pheromone trap this week. They lay their eggs on the base of cucurbit plants (winter squash, pumpkins, zucchini are hosts, cucumber, watermelon, and butternut are not hosts). Once larvae have bored inside the stem, insecticide application will have little control. So, application should be applied with the first sight of adult activity. Threshold for spraying is 5 moths/trap for crowning cucurbits and 12 moths/trap for vining cucurbits. Treat base of stems thoroughly to target hatching larvae. Some selective materials used for other caterpillars in squash, such as spinosyns and *Bacillus thuringiensis aizawi*, have demonstrated efficacy in trials. See [New England Vegetable Management Guide](#) for spray options.



Squash vine borer adult (above) and egg laid singly on the stem of a cucurbit (photo credit: Alan Eaton, University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension)

**Tomato hornworms** are active. The adults are large moths, predominately gray or gray-brown with lighter markings. They are commonly referred to as sphinx, hawk, or hummingbird moths. The wingspread may reach five inches and the hairy, robust abdomen has yellow spots. They emerge from over wintered pupae in the soil in late spring or early summer.

Look for the large pellet-like fecal droppings on the plastic under the plants, defoliation of leaves with only bare stems remaining, or surface feeding scars on green fruit. Caterpillar infestations usually begin in July and may extend through September. Use selective insecticides to preserve natural enemies and avoid secondary pest outbreaks (i.e. aphids). Bt containing product (e.g. Dipel and XenTari) are effective and should be rotated for resistance management. These products must be ingested; apply in evening or early morning, before larvae are actively feeding. Adherence will improve with use of an approved spreader-sticker.



Adult form of *tomato hornworm*, sometimes called the five-spotted hawkmoth. Photographs by Jeremy Whipple, MPTN (left); by John Capinera, University of Florida (below).



**Updated disaster relief and flooding resources:**

- [UConn flooding resources](#)
- [Connecticut Department of Agriculture Disaster Relief Resources](#)
- [Reporting losses](#)
- [Recovery funding opportunity](#)

**Continue to be on the lookout for the following pests that were covered in [the previous pest alerts \(2023\)](#):**

- Phytophthora blight, root rot and crown rot
- Bacterial canker of tomatoes
- Verticillium wilt on eggplant
- Powdery mildew of cucurbits
- Downy mildew of cucurbits (has not been reported from CT), but continue to apply preventative sprays
- European corn borers and fall army worm: report from 1 farm. NY strain- 1, IA-0 and Hybrid-1, and 0% infestation from FAW in the field at a farm in Berlin.
- Corn earworm: 0.5 moths/night in Berlin (= 6-day spray schedule)
- Striped and spotted cucumber beetles: Recommended sprays: acetaprimid (Assail), cyclaniliprole (Harvanta), carbaryl (Sevin SLR Plus) and azadirachtin & pyrethrins (Azera – OMRI listed).





*Save the Date*

# UConn Extension Vegetable & Small Fruit Growers' Conference

**JANUARY 9, 2024**

**UConn Student Union, Storrs, CT**

Join us for an educational day of learning and updates on the latest trends in vegetable and small fruit production. Trade show will be held throughout conference.

More information on trade show and participant registration coming soon!



## Vegetable IPM Field Workshop

August 8, 2023 Rain date August 9

10am – 2:30pm

UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility

59 Agronomy Road, Storrs CT

Join UConn Extension Faculty at the Plant Science Research Farm to learn about important vegetable pests and management options.

Presentation topics include:

- UConn Plant Diagnostic Lab updates
- Powdery mildew and downy mildew management
- Alternaria survey results and fungicide sensitivity evaluation
- Biodegradable plastic mulch: impacts on crops and soil
- Allium insect pests
- Evaluation of a push and pull system for diamondback moth management
- Remote sensing of potato leafhopper damage and drone demonstration



- There is no cost to attend this workshop but **registration by July 31 is required**. Seating is limited - reserve your spot today!
- Complimentary lunch and refreshments will be offered
- Register online (preferred) at this link: <https://forms.gle/2pAd28Jg6tRkewzS6> or call 860-486-0572 to register by phone.
- 2.5 pesticide recertification credits approved in PA and 1A categories.
- Questions can be e-mailed to [ana.legrand@uconn.edu](mailto:ana.legrand@uconn.edu) or leave a message at 860-486-0572.
- If you require an accommodation to participate in this event, please contact organizer at above e-mail or phone number by July 31, 2023.

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This report is prepared by Shuresh Ghimire, UConn Extension. All photos in this publication are credited to Shuresh Ghimire unless otherwise noted.

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