

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Entomology Extension

Common Name: Striped Cucumber Beetle

Scientific Name: *Acalymma vittatum* (*Acalymma vittata*)

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae

Size and Appearance:

	Adult	Egg	Larva/Nymph	Pupae (if applicable)
Length (mm)	6 mm long		About 9.5 mm long when full grown	About 6 mm long
Appearance	-Yellow beetle with three parallel longitudinal black stripes on a bright yellow body -The head and antennae are black	-Light yellow or orange in color. -Round to oval shaped	- Larvae are white with a dark head and have three pairs of legs on the thorax	-Pupae are whitish-yellow

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Chewing, both larvae and adults.

Host plant/s: Vegetables, especially cucurbits such as cucumber, melon, and squash, pumpkin.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Both larvae and adults cause damage to plants. Adult striped cucumber beetles damage plants by feeding on leaves, stems, and fruit. As soon as the cucumber, squash, pumpkin, melons and related seedlings emerge from the soil, beetles can eat off the stems and cotyledons and frequently kill them. Adults later feed on the leaves, vines and fruits of plants that survive. Adults also feed on beans, peas, corn and blossoms of other plants. The larvae cause damage by feeding on the roots of host plants, which weakens the plant and makes it susceptible to other problems.

Also, adults are vectors of *Erwinia tracheiphila* bacteria, which causes a serious cucurbit disease known as bacterial wilt. Plants infected with the disease wilt quickly with leaves drying out prior to plant death. *E. tracheiphila* survives during the winter in the guts of infected adult beetles and is transmitted to plants by adult beetles as they are feeding. Beetles also spread squash mosaic virus.

References:

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