

Problem: Stink Bug (many species) Damage on Tomato



Host Plants: All tomatoes.

Description: Small, white spots appear on tomato fruit. This is a condition known as 'cloudy spot' and is a common problem during summer. It is caused by the feeding of stink bugs on developing tomato fruit. Stink bugs injure the developing fruit by probing the fruit; where their probing occurs, the pigments don't develop -- thus, the cloudy spot or a whitish-yellow spot. If you look very closely, you should see a small feeding hole in the center of each spot. It takes only one or a few bugs, they usually move in and out in a short period of time, and usually a control measure is impractical or impossible.

Recommendations: Fortunately, the feeding period of stink bugs is short so that tomatoes are affected for a short time only then will get back to normal. The use of the fruit is not affected in any way so they are safe to can or eat fresh.

References:

1. [Tomato Insect IPM Guidelines](#), UK Entomology, University of Kentucky
2. [Stink Bugs in Tomato](#), University of Arkansas Extension

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