

Cucumber Beetles

Striped and spotted cucumber beetles are a problem on cucumbers and melons mainly because they transmit a bacterial wilt. The first symptom of this disease is a distinct wilting of individual leaves. Eventually, the entire plant wilts and dies. Plants infected with bacterial wilt will not recover. It is therefore important to control the beetles early in the season to prevent infection.



Control

- Cover plants with floating row cover to keep the beetles out (but you must uncover flowering plants for the bees to pollinate).
- Remove diseased plants immediately to prevent the spread to other plants.
- Use insecticides to control the adults, following label directions. Do not apply carbaryl when bees are present.

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Additional Resources

Cucumber Beetle

- UW-Extension Publication A3751-E, *Cucumber Beetles*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Cucumber-Beetles-P557.aspx>
- UW-Extension Fact Sheet XHT1025, *Cucumber Beetles*, at <https://hort.uwex.edu/articles/cucumber-beetles/>
- Article on the MG website at <http://wimastergardener.org/article/cucumber-beetles/>

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