



## Technical Bulletin

# Striped Cucumber Beetle

*Acalymma vittatum* (L) • Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae • ACAVIT



<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	Native to Central and South America, southern United States and now Canada, the pest remains most active in its southern ranges.
<b>HOSTS</b>	Primary hosts include cucumber, cantaloupes, corn, winter squash, pumpkin and watermelon.
<b>DESCRIPTION.</b>	Characterized by black-yellow stripes at adulthood, this small beetle is approximately ¼ inch in length. Damage is caused by adults feeding on cotyledons and stems on leaves, vines and fruit. Larvae feed on host roots weakening the plant. They are also vectors of a serious cucurbit disease known as bacterial wilt. Beetles also spread squash mosaic virus.
<b>ADULT MOTH</b>	Oblong, yellowish green, marked by three black stripes, about ¼ inch in length.
<b>LARVAE</b>	White with a brown head, about $\frac{3}{10}$ inch in length.
<b>EGGS</b>	Oval, orange-yellow in color, and are found in clusters of 25-50 on the undersides of host leaves.
<b>LIFE HISTORY</b>	The adults hibernate under garden debris, or if such protection is not available they will burrow into the soil below the frost line. Adults emerge from April to June, usually before the cucurbit plant and feed on pollen from flowers of apple, horse chestnut, lilac and others. When squash and cucumbers start to shoot up the beetles quickly congregate on them.

## MONITORING INFORMATION

<b>LURE ACTIVE INGREDIENTS, SUBSTRATE &amp; FIELD LIFE</b>	<a href="#">Coaster lure packet</a> Field life: thirty (30) days.
<b>TRAP IN USE</b>	<a href="#">Yellow Card</a>  Available in large (8.5 x 5.5 inches) and small sizes (4x6 inches); 1.5 to 4 times the catch rate of traditional sticky traps according to USDA tests.
<b>MONITORING STRATEGY</b>	Attach lure to the top of the sticky card and hang two feet above the top of the host plant. One trap/lure per 2000 sq. ft. of garden for monitoring. One trap per 400 sq. ft. for trapping. Check with Cooperative Extension or Master Gardener for local information and recommendations.
<b>CULTURAL &amp; PHYSICAL CONTROLS</b>	Growers can avoid the most significant damage by delaying the planting of summer cucurbits by a few weeks. Always practice clean and thorough cultivation after fall harvests. Cornell University suggests deep tillage, compost application, and cover-cropping in the fall to encourage decomposition of residue which may harbor beetles in winter months. Any diseased plant matter should be burned or otherwise discarded rather than composted for future use.

**Alpha Scents Inc.**

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