

## **Cucurbit Insect Management**

By *Unknown*

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Purdue Dept of Entomology Bulletin E-30, "Vegetable Insects" is a good source of information if you have insect problems in your gourds. Single copies can be obtained from your local extension office.

The striped cucumber overwinters in Indiana and is the 1st concern, we generally face each spring with seedlings. The spotted beetle is the "Western Com rootworm" pest noted in June to August. Both of these beetles transmit "Bacterial Wilt". This is the case of the sudden, severe, and permanent wilt of a single plant runner or the entire plant. Squash bugs are brownish-black, about 5/8ths of an inch long. We see them largely on the gourd fruit later in the season in large numbers. These bugs love butternut squash and will move from squash to gourds easily.

Sevin is recommended for Beetle control. "Ambush/Pounce" or Asana is suggested for squash bug control. There is no cure known for "Bacterial Wilt". Control of the insects is needed to control the wilt. "Pounce 3.2 or Ambush 2E" are recommended by our Kentucky friends in "The Gourd Vine" [spring issue] for insect control.