



# Squash Bug

## Squash Bug

Adult squash bugs are large, gray to brown garden insects. (see top image)

Adults overwinter in plant debris around the garden, under rocks, etc. When the adults emerge, late May to early June, they fly to growing cucurbit plants to feed and mate.

The females lay eggs on the underside of the leaf or along the stem. (see nearest image →) Eggs hatch in about 10 days. Nymphs go through five stages to reach maturity, this takes 4 to 6 weeks. (see far image →) It is not uncommon to see multiple stages at one time. (see near image ↘)

As the far image shows ↘, they are very mobile and move up and down stems and from plant to plant. You can use this to increase the effectiveness of insecticides. They also spend



Common name	Residual*	Notes
carbaryl	medium	contact
permethrin	medium-long	contact
bifenthrin	long	contact

The above chart from the University of Minnesota shows three of the more effective insecticides for control of Squash Bugs. **Carbaryl** is only effective on the first three stages, plus is very lethal to bees, so I don't recommend it as my main choice.

**Permethrin** is available in the *Lawn, Garden & Pet* concentrate and dust. This is effective on all stages, but *Spreader Sticker* is required to be effective on the last two stages and adults.

**Bifenthrin** is available in the *Broad Spectrum Insecticide*, listing plant bugs on the label or *Vegetable & Ornamental Insect Granule*. Again, *Spreader Sticker* is required with Broad Spectrum Insecticide on the latter stages and adults.

When trying to control Squash Bugs a two pronged approach is BEST. Focus the liquid insecticide on the under side of the leaves and down the stems. *Spreader Sticker* helps the insecticide adhere to the plant surface as well as stick to the waxy skeleton of the adults.

After the liquid has dried, apply a granule or dust where the stems come out of the ground, out to the first blossoms or fruit. This will control mobile insects and adults. Repeat both as needed.

