

# Common New England Vegetable Insect Pests



**Colorado potato beetle** adults begin laying orange eggs on undersides of leaves of potato, pepper, eggplant and related plants as foliage emerges. Hand picking is practical for small plantings. Spray is most effective if timed for early larval stage.



**Cutworm** damage occurs just after plants germinate or are set out in the field. Some species chew plant stems at the soil line, making plants fall over. Other species feed on leaves, buds, or roots. Nearly all garden plants can be attacked. Cutworms hide in the soil during the day.



**Aphids** migrate onto potato, pepper, tomato, cucurbits, lettuce and other crops in late spring. Numerous generations feed until fall, spreading virus and other plant diseases. Aphids are usually controlled by natural enemies.



**Imported cabbage worm** butterflies lay eggs on cabbage, broccoli, cauli flower, Brussels sprouts, turnips, radishes, kale, and lettuce. The soft green caterpillars chew irregular holes in leaves, and usually eat their way into cabbage heads from the bottom.



**Squash bugs** lay eggs as cucurbit vines (cucumber, melons, pumpkin, squash etc.) begin to lengthen. Adults and nymphs hide near host plants under leaves and soil clumps. To prevent squash bug damage, plant resistant varieties or keep vines covered until cucurbits blossom.



**Striped cucumber beetle** adults emerge as spring temperatures exceed 55°F. Adults and larvae feed on summer and winter squash, pumpkins, zucchini, cucumber, and melons. Feeding spreads bacterial wilt and other diseases.