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Vegetable Pests

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Pests	Host	Description	Symptoms	Controls	
				Cultural	Chemical
Aphids Many species	Many	Eggs in sheltered locations Eggs: Mostly used as an overwintering stage, females can give live birth Nymphs: Usually on underside of foliage Adults: On foliage Generations: Many per year	Suck plant juices	Lady beetle adults and larvae Aluminum foil mulch Strong steam of water	Insecticidal soaps Registered insecticides
Asparagus Beetle <i>Crioceris asparagi</i>	Asparagus	Blue, black, yellow, or red and black spotted beetle Overwinters: Adults in debris Eggs: Laid on plants Larvae: Feed on ferns Pupae: Live in the soil around plant Generations: Two to three a year	Feed on fern and spears	Destroy fern and debris in the fall	Insecticidal Soaps Registered insecticides
Blister Beetle <i>Epocauta and Meloe</i>	Many	Small black beetle that causes blistering of sensitive animal tissue. Overwinters: Larvae or pupae in soil Eggs: Laid in soil during summer Larvae: Feed on grasshopper eggs Pupae: Stay in soil Generations: One per year	Feed on leaves and flowers of plants	Shade cloth Hand picking (with gloves)	Registered insecticides
Cabbage Loopers <i>Trichoplusia ni</i>	Cole Crops & many others	Pale green with white lines on back and sides. Moth gray-brown with spots on forewing Overwinters: Adults on debris or structures as pupae Eggs: On host plant Larvae: Feed on foliage Pupae: On host plants or debris Generations: Three or more	Chews leaves	Hand pick	Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides
Corn Earworm / Fruitworm <i>Heliothis zea</i>	Corn	Large green brown or red worms Overwinters: As adult in warmer regions Egg: Laid on fruit or silk Larvae: Feed on corn ears and tomato fruits Pupae: Live in the soil Generations: Two	Feed on corn silk and ears, tomato fruits and other vegetables	Hand picking	Mineral oil at base of silks Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides

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Corn Rootworm <i>Crambus calliginosellus</i>	Corn	Larvae 1/2" long, white with brown-yellow head Overwinters: Egg stage Eggs: In soil Larvae: Feed on corn roots Pupae: In the soil Adults: Beetles feed on pollen and silks Generations: One per year	Larvae feed on corn roots causing stunting, lodging, or death	Rotate planting location yearly	Registered insecticides
Corn Sap Beetle <i>Carpophilus dimidiatus</i>	Corn	Small elongated black beetles Overwinters: Adults in the soil Eggs: Laid in ears of corn, usually after earworm damage. Larvae: Feed on kernels, sweeter varieties are more susceptible Pupae: Small black beetle Generations: One per year	Enter corn ear at the tip and feed on kernels	Control earworm Super sweet corns are more susceptible	Registered insecticides before they enter the ear
Cucumber Beetle Multiple species	Cucumbers	Small, yellow-green beetle with black stripes Overwinters: As adults in field edges Eggs: Laid in cracks at plant base Larvae: Feed on plant roots Pupae: Live in the soil Generations: Two per season	Transmit mosaic virus and bacteria Chew seedlings or ripening fruit of cucurbits	Plant more crops than needed and then thin infected plants	Registered insecticides
Hornworms <i>Manduca</i> species	Tomatoes, sometimes potatoes	Very large brown or green caterpillars Overwinters: In soil as pupae Eggs: On foliage of host plant Larvae: Feed on foliage Pupae: In soil Adults: Sphinx, hummingbird, and hawk moths Generations: One per year	Voracious feeders on foliage and fruit	Hand pick Clean up debris in fall Rototill in fall	Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides
Imported Cabbage Worm <i>Pieris rapae</i>		Soft, velvety, green with faint yellow stripes. Adult - white butterfly with black spots Overwinters: On host crucifer plants in pupal stage Eggs: Laid on host plants Larvae: Feed on foliage Pupae: On host plants Generations: Two to six per year	Chews holes in leaves	Early planting Plant red cabbage varieties Avoid mulching cabbage plantings	Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides
Leaf Miners <i>Pegomya hyoscyami</i>	Leafy vegetables	Beetle, moth, flies, or sawfly larvae Overwinters: Pupae in soil Eggs: On underside of leaves Larvae: Mine leaf blade Pupae: In soil Generations: Three to four per year	Tunnels in foliage Large blotches on leaves	Cover plants Hand remove leaves Plant early or late	Registered insecticides
Mexican Bean Beetle <i>Appalachia varvestis</i>	Beans	Adult beetles yellow to copper with eight small black spots Overwinters: As adults in sheltered locations Egg: Laid on underside of leaves Larvae: Feed on foliage Pupae: Underside of bean leaf Generations: One to two per year	Larvae feed on foliage	Late planting (after June 15)	Registered insecticides

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Onion Maggot <i>Hylemya antiqua</i>	Onions	Leg-less white maggots. Adult - pale to dark gray flies Overwinters: As adults or pupae in soil, debris, or cull onions Eggs: Laid on plant stem or in soil next to onion Larvae: Roots, stem, and bulb Pupae: In roots or soil Generations: Several per year	Kill seedlings Damage bulbs of older plants	Rotate onion location Destroy cull onions Rototill deeply in the spring Delay planting	Registered insecticides
Onion Thrips <i>Thrips tabaci</i>	Onions	Tiny, thin yellow or light brown fast moving insect Overwinters: Adults and nymphs on plants or debris Eggs: On plants Nymphs: Feed on plant Pupae: In soil Generations: Four to ten per year	Sandpapered leaf surface has little chlorophyll	Water sprays Aluminum foil mulch	Insecticidal soaps Registered insecticides
Pea Weevil <i>Bruchus pisorum</i>	Peas	Fat white grubs with brown heads inside individual peas Overwinters: Adults in seeds and in sheltered areas Eggs: Laid on pods Larvae: In seeds Pupae: In seeds Generations: One per year	Peas are eaten inside the pod	Plant fresh seed Clean up debris in fall	Carbaryl Endosulfan
Potato Beetle <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>	Potatoes	Yellow oval beetles with black stripes Overwinters: As adult Eggs: Laid in June Larvae: Feed on leaves for several weeks Pupae: Live in soil Generations: Several	Adult beetles and larvae chew potatoes, eggplants, and tomatoes	Early planting of potatoes Plant hairy-leaved eggplants Hand picking	Most garden insecticides
Squash Bug <i>Anasa tristis</i>	Squash and cucurbits	Gray or brown true bug Overwinters: As adults in protected areas Eggs: Laid on plants Nymphs: On plants, usually found in small groups Adults: On plants Generations: One per year	Plant wilts then dies	Hand pick pests and egg clusters Clean up garden in the fall	Registered insecticides
Army worms/Cutworms <i>Spodoptera species</i>	Many	Overwinters: Adults, larvae, pupae Eggs: On host plants and debris; usually in masses Larvae: Foliage, fruit, seeds Pupae: In the soil Generations: One to three	Eat foliage and chew leaves	Hand pick Aluminum barriers Plant collars	Bacillus thuringiensis Registered insecticides
European Earwig <i>Forficula auricularia</i>	Many	Overwinters: Adult in protected areas Eggs: In the soil Nymphs: Small green plants, decaying matter Adult: Organic matter, ripening fruit, blossoms, foliage Generations: One per year	Feed on leaves, flowers, and corn silks	Clean up garden area Newspaper or board traps Use cooking oil in traps	Registered insecticides Baits

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Flea Beetle <i>Phyllotreta species</i>	Many	Overwinters: Adults in debris and weeds Eggs: In soil Larvae: Feed on roots Pupae: In soil Adult: Tiny round holes in foliage	Small round holes in leaves	Clean up garden in the fall Rototill in the fall Protective coverings on plants	Registered insecticides
Grasshopper <i>Melanoplus species</i>	Many	Large insects with strong back legs; yellow, brown, or green in color Overwinters: Eggs in the soil Eggs: Deposited in the soil Nymphs: Foliage Adults: Foliage Generations: One per year	Eats foliage, stems, and blossoms	Clean up vacant lots Neighborhood control efforts Floating row covers Nosema locustae	Registered insecticides
Leafhoppers <i>Circulifer tentellus</i>	Tomatoes	Tiny sucking insects that fly when disturbed Overwinters: As adults on host weeds (wild mustard) or in southern areas Eggs: Inserted into leaves and stems Nymphs: Feed on foliage Adults: On foliage Generations: Three per year	Spread curly top disease	Grow extra tomato plants (2 per hole) Maintain healthy plants	Insecticidal soaps Insecticides are of little value
Mites <i>Tetranychus</i>	Many	Small with eight legs Overwinters: Adults and immature in protective areas and debris Eggs: On underside of leaves Nymphs: On foliage Adults: On foliage Generations: Several per year	Gray foliage Dirty leaves	Predatory mites Provide adequate water Spray paint with a strong stream of water	Insecticidal soaps Miticides
Slugs and Snails	Many	Large, slimy creatures Overwinters: Immatures, adults in sheltered areas, eggs : Masses in moist areas Immature: In soil, organic debris, fruit in contact with soil Generations: One	Foliage eaten Seedlings destroyed	Thin plants, reduce water, trap under flat objects. Clean up debris, remove excess mulch Cottage cheese containers as traps or bait stations	Slug and snail baits
Whitefly Many species	Many	Small butterfly-like creature Overwinters: Southern locations, greenhouses Eggs: Underside of leaves Larvae: (crawlers) on foliage Pupae: On foliage Generations: Several per year	Sticky foliage Sooty mold on leaves Sucking insect; removes plant sap	Inspect plants as they come from greenhouses Wash plants	Insecticidal soaps Registered insecticides
Wireworm <i>Ctenicera species</i>	Potatoes	Brown jointed larvae of click beetle Overwinters: Adults and larva in soil Eggs: In soil Larvae: In soil for one to six years Pupae: In soil Adult: Click beetles	Potato tubers often damaged Plant roots often destroyed	Rototill in the fall Rotate crops Flooding soil	Registered insecticides