Squash Bug
*Anasa tristis*

Hemiptera: Coreidae
They emerge in spring prior to the emergence of pumpkin and squash crops.

Adults are the wintering form and find refuge in the vicinity of the field of the previous year.
Squash bug eggs are laid in small clusters
Early stage nymphs are generally grayish or grayish-green.
Molting of a squash bug nymph
Wing pads become increasingly visible on late stages.
Feeding is done in a “lacerate and flush” manner that kills cells at the feeding site.
Massed feeding on stems can produce plant collapse
Later in the season they concentrate more on fruit and produce wounds on the fruit surface.
Gumming at squash bug feeding wounds on zucchini
Fruit scarring of the skin of a kabocha squash
Squash Bug Lesson #1

Mild winter temperatures allow squash bug to occur over a broader area.
Insecticide treatments should be done early in the year.

Suggested applications are made at first appearance of eggs and about 2 weeks later.
Squash Bug Lesson Learned #3

Direct treatments around the base of the plant

Squash bugs seek shelter around the base of the plant during hot weather
Squash Bug Lesson Learned #4

Mulches *are not* a good idea where squash bug is a problem
Squash Bug: Management in Home Gardens

Fact Sheet No. 5.609  Insect Series | Home and Garden

by W. Cranshaw*

Squash bug (*Anasa tristis*) can be the most destructive insect pest of winter squash and pumpkins. Feeding damage results in wilting of vines, often with plants being prematurely killed. Problems are most common in the warmer areas of the state and tend to be worse following mild winters.

**Life History and Habits**

Winter is spent in the adult stage under sheltering debris in the vicinity of previously infested plantings. Squash bugs become active in warm days during late spring and move to germinating squash. Mating and some feeding occur during this time followed by egg laying, which often begins around mid-June.

Squash bug eggs are very distinctive. They are shiny, slightly oval, and copper colored. Eggs are laid in small masses, most often on the underside of leaves. The first stage nymphs hatch in about a week and are pale yellowish-brown. They molt several times and change color each time. As the nymphs grow, they become larger and darker in color.

**Quick Facts**

- Squash bug eggs are shiny, slightly oval, and copper colored.
- Squash bugs can be the most destructive insect pest of winter squash and pumpkins.
- Both nymphs and adults primarily feed by sucking sap from plants causing great damage.
- Mulches often provide protective cover for squash bugs and damage can be worse on plants that are mulched compared to those grown over bare soil.

*Figure 1: Squash bugs.*
Harlequin Bug
*Murgantia histrionica*

Hemiptera: Pentatomidae
Adults are brightly colored and highly patterned stink bugs.
Egg mass

Multiple egg masses

Nymphs at egg hatch

Nymphs settled around egg mass after egg hatch
Harlequin bug injuries

Cloudy, spotted areas develop around the feeding site on mature leaves.
Harlequin bug injuries

Severe injury results in areas of dead tissue. Injuries may also distort growth, particularly when affecting the new growth.
Harlequin Bug
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Insect Series | Home & Garden

W. Cranshaw

The harlequin bug (*Murgantia histrionica*) is a brightly colored insect that can occur as a significant pest in gardens and vegetable crops. It feeds on several kinds of plants, mostly in the cabbage family (Brassicaceae), and can cause serious damage during outbreaks. Historically harlequin bugs have been problems restricted to southern areas of the US, but in recent years they have expanded their range northward and now can be common in many areas of Colorado. Harlequin bugs range of other non-brassica plants, particularly during outbreaks. Cleome (spider plant) is a plant that is particularly favored by harlequin bug.

Life History and Habits

Harlequin bugs survive winter in the adult stage, hidden under plant debris and other insulating cover. With return of warming temperatures in spring they emerge and seek out food plants. Vari-

Quick Facts

- Harlequin bug is a very brightly colored insect that is becoming more common in Colorado gardens.
- Cabbage family plants are most often damaged by harlequin bugs.
- Hand picking/crushing egg masses and elimination of plants that provide food and