

## Southern Corn Rootworm

The **southern corn rootworm** (*Diabrotica undecimpunctata*), also known as the **spotted cucumber beetle**, can be found on an extremely wide range of crops, flowers, and weeds. It is most often damaging to melon/squash family plants, but sometimes is a serious pest to ornamental flowers and is regularly present in corn fields. It has been consistently found in hemp fields, particularly in southeastern Colorado.

The southern corn rootworm survives between seasons in the adult stage, so they may be seen very early in the season when they emerge from the sheltered areas they use in winter. Flowers and pollen are primarily what they adult insects feed upon and later females begin to lay eggs at the base of larval plants. Various grasses, cucurbits, and legumes are known hosts of the larval stages of this insect, which chew on the roots of these plants. A complete generation can be completed in about two months, and there are likely to be two or more generations per year. The adults are long-lived and can be observed throughout almost the entire growing season.

In hemp the adult beetles do a bit of leaf chewing, which produces barely observable, insignificant, leaf injury.

Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae



**(Top) Adult southern corn rootworm and (lower) leaf chewing injuries that it can produce.**