



NATIONAL URBAN AND PERI-URBAN  
AGRICULTURE PROGRAM (NUPAP)

## SQUASH BEETLE

*Aulacophora indica*, a species of leaf beetle, is considered a significant pest of cucurbit crops.



URBAN GARDEN COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

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# CHARACTERISTICS OF **SQUASH BEETLE DAMAGE**

**Attacks Flowers,  
Stems, Fruits, and Leaves**



**Feeds on a Circular  
Pattern and Creates Holes**



**Nibbles on Flowers that  
Affects Fruit Set**



**Causes Defoliation due  
to Severe Infestation**



# CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT

Adult is the damaging stage of squash beetle, commonly targeting cucurbits, such as pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, and melons.



## MECHANICAL CONTROL

- Using physical barriers such as nets or covers to protect plants from adult beetles is effective in preventing infestation.
- Using traps, baits, and attractants like pheromones helps in reducing the squash beetle population.

## CULTURAL CONTROL



Implementation of good agricultural practices such as plowing and harrowing the field can minimize pupation in the soil. Adequate watering and fertilization are also of great importance.



## CHEMICAL CONTROL

Application of insecticides can also be used as a last resort when other control methods are not sufficient.

## REGULAR MONITORING



By monitoring your plants regularly, signs of infestation can be detected and timely intervention can be done. Inspect for puncture marks or egg-laying scars on fruits.



# LIFE CYCLE

## EGGS



## LARVA



## PUPA



## ADULT



## REFERENCES

Abe, M., & Matsuda, K. (2005). Chemical factors influencing the feeding preference of three *Aulacophora* leaf beetle species (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae). *Applied Entomology and Zoology*, 40(1), 161–168. <https://doi.org/10.1303/aez.2005.161>

Barroga, Grace F., "Aulacophora indica (Gmelin), the correct name for the squash beetle in the Philippines (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Galerucinae)" (2002). *Journal Article*. 5788. <https://www.ukdr.uplb.edu.ph/journal-articles/5788>

Bureau of Plant Industry - Crop Pest Management Division (BPI-CPMD)  
Common Urban Garden Arthropod Pest and Diseases Compendium



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### Urban Garden Common Pests and Diseases

Squash Beetles, also known as the red pumpkin beetles, are noted to be significant agricultural pests in many parts of Asia, particularly for cucurbit crops. Deepen your understanding and awareness of these pests using the infographic below.

Both larval and adult stages of squash beetles can cause significant damage to crops, targeting the leaves, stems, and flowers. It is expected to have reduced yields and fruit quality.

Therefore, the control and management intervention for such pests should be strategized effectively to avoid severe infestation.