



CAES

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CUCURBIT BEETLE (*Diabrotica speciosa*)



The Cucurbit Beetle is an invasive beetle from Central and South America. Primary hosts include corn, grape, small grains, soybeans, potatoes, and peanuts. The Cucurbit beetle has only been intercepted at U.S. ports a few times however has the potential to spread through international trade of host plant material. The southern and mid-west portions of the United States have the greatest risk for *D. speciosa* establishment based on the climate and host availability.

Adults are small, brightly green colored with six wide, yellow ovals on the abdomen. Females lay eggs in the soil near the host plant, which hatch within 7 days. In tropical regions, this beetle can have multiple generations per year.

Damage occurs throughout the plant with the adults feeding on above-ground foliage, while larvae feed on roots, primarily

on young host plants, which can lead to premature death. The signs and symptoms of the Cucurbit beetle range depending on the host plant. Damage to corn includes poor pollination and kernel production due to adult feeding on tassels, as well as stunted growth and poor vigor of young plants due to larval feeding upon the roots. Grape exhibits reduced fruit production from adults feeding on flowers and young buds.

Evidence suggests that *D. speciosa* is a viral vector of various viruses, such as mosaic viruses, which can infect solanaceous, cucurbits, and other shared host plants.

The primary survey method for the Cucurbit beetle is general visual inspections of host plants.

