



Squash Vine Moth and Squash Vine Borer

All squash, pumpkin, melon, and cucumber plants are targets for this pest. The daytime flying moth will deposit eggs on the plant stems, once the larvae (borers) hatch they tunnel into the plant and begin feeding on the plant tissue. The damage is often critical and results in once healthy plants wilting practically overnight and dying off over a matter of a few weeks.

Treating with **Bt Thuricide** (*Bacillus thuringiensis*)

Treat your squash, pumpkin, melon and cucumber plants in early summer about once a week with Bt. Bt Thuricide is a naturally occurring bacterium which interrupts a larvae's digestive cycle and essentially starves it to death. Insects stop feeding and die within 2-3 days of ingestion.

Use weekly treatments of Bt beginning in early summer to also control cabbage worms and cabbage loopers. These two common pests feed on cabbage, broccoli and kale.

- Mix rate is ½ to 4 tsp per gallon of water depending on what you are controlling. Always read the label before use
- Once Bt concentrate is mixed with water, use within 12 hours to maintain usefulness
- Apply to upper and lower leaf surface, but not to the point of runoff
- Reapply after a heavy rain
- Also controls caterpillars, leaf folders and leaf rollers
- Can be applied up to the day of harvest
- Comes in Ready-to-use and concentrate

Bt Thuricide is approved for organic gardening and is generally considered safe to use around beneficial insects but certain precautions should be taken

- Do not spray Bt directly onto the flowers of any plants
- Spray in the early morning or late evening when pollinators are less active
- Be careful to keep spray away from host plants for butterflies (milkweed, parsley, carrots...)

Captain Jack's Dead Bug Brew is another good option for naturally controlling insects on vegetables or fruit trees. The active ingredient is Spinosad, a naturally occurring bacterium when eaten by insects, they stop eating and die. Controls such pests as bagworms, borers, beetles, loopers, leaf miners, caterpillars, moths, spider mite, thrips and more.

- Always read label for crop, pest to control and rate of application before use
- 2 oz (4 tablespoons) per gallon of water
- Apply to upper and lower surface of leaves
- Does not significantly impact beneficial insects
- Comes in concentrate, ready-to-use or hose-end applications