

### Insect Damage in Pumpkins C. Welty

Damage from insects tunneling into pumpkin fruit has been reported from Wood County and Sandusky County, and similar damage was seen in our campus pumpkin plots in Franklin County this week. The holes are about 1/4 inch in diameter and usually are calloused. Holes are found on exposed sides of pumpkins as well as on the side in contact with the ground. 10 to 25% of the crop is affected in fields reported. We do not know what insect caused this damage. At one site, a maggot and fly pupa were found inside, but these were small in size relative to the tunnels, so they are probably a secondary infestation. In a home garden in Champaign County, similar damage was found this week and a squash vine borer larva was found feeding in the interior flesh; in this case, a hole was right next to the stem (handle), and there were tunnels through the stem as if a borer accessed the fruit via the stem. Perhaps damage was done by wireworms or generalist caterpillars such as fall armyworm or variegated cutworm??

Squash vine borer usually bores into the stem at the base of the plant, but it can attack other parts of stems. Squash vine borer overwinters as a fully grown larva in a cocoon in the soil. It is possible that damaged fruit found without any insect present were damaged by squash vine borer larvae that completed development and exited the plant. Cultural controls that can help manage squash vine borer are destroying vines soon after harvest, and disking or plowing soil in fall or spring to destroy cocoons. Squash vine borer is usually controlled by insecticides sprayed weekly from late June to late July; growers who spray for cucumber beetles usually do not notice problems by squash vine borer.

Any growers who notice this problem are encouraged to report it to Celeste Welty (614-292-2803) directly or via their county agent, so that we can get a better idea of the distribution of the problem. We are particularly interested in any insect specimens found inside damaged fruit so that we can determine whether the cause is squash vine borer or some other insect.

### Cuke Beetles Feeding On Pumpkin Rinds

If you still have pumpkins in the field that have not been harvested, be sure to check for cucumber beetle feeding that causes scarring on the skin. Since last Friday, we have noticed a significant increase in skin damage in just the past 5 days. This is probably due to the fact that a light frost last Friday morning killed pumpkin vines and neighboring corn fields. Beetles, looking for food, quickly moved to other food sources. One grower reported that the number of beetles flying around had become a nuisance as he was trying to move fruit from the field. If beetle feeding damage is significant and you need more time to complete harvest, another insecticide spray

may be needed to protect fruit. Refer to the OH Vegetable Guide for recommended materials and rates.

Crop Report  
Ron Overmyer

(Oct. 1) Growers are about 60% to 70% completed with processing tomato harvest. Quality is still good but there is still some problem with greens. No final date for harvest has been set.

Internet Tip  
Larry Whiting

A new search engine called "E-answers" has been set up at the University of Florida as an aid for faculty, staff, and the public at large to search across a number of state extension service home pages instantly without having to go to each site individually to do a search. For example, you might type in "apple scab" and all fact sheets and bulletins dealing with that topic from any of the land grant schools participating will pop up on your computer screen. It's neat.

You may want to "bookmark" this url:

<http://www.e-answers.org>

Participating along with Ohio State are Kansas State, Michigan State, Mississippi State, Oklahoma State, Oregon State, Penn State, Rutgers, Texas A&M, University of California, University of Florida, University of Maryland, University of Nebraska, and West Virginia University.

A little tip that might save you some time.

What's New At The VegNet Web Site

My Pumpkins Are Bigger Than Yours - Week 10 The Harvest

A weekly peek at our pumpkin patch. Post Harvest Handling Tips and Controlling Post-Harvest Rots.

Coming Next Month: Harvest Wrap-Up (Pictures plus yield data).

Horticulture Field Night At The Enterprise Center, Hillsboro, OH  
Take The Mini Tour.

For tours and info, Call: Brad Bergefurd at: 1-800-628-7722 for details.

Highlights From Muck Crops Day

In Problem Of The Week, see:

The Persistence of Weeds.  
Scab on Gourds

Powdery Mildew-Pumpkins and  
Septoria Leaf Spot on Tomatoes.

More On TOMCAST and Early Blight Visit TOMCAST

Return to Vegetable Crops Homepage Ohio State University Extension

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Where trade names are used, no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Ohio State University Extension is implied. Although every attempt is made to produce information that is complete, timely and accurate, the pesticide user bears the responsibility of consulting the pesticide label and adhering to those directions.

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