



(UC IPM)

Cucumber Beetle IPM Focus Groups

Group #1: 4:00-5:00pm, Wednesday July 24th

Group #2: 4:00-5:00pm, Thursday August 1st

Join us to learn about cucumber beetle identification & Integrated Pest Management (IPM) options including cultural approaches & organic insecticide options. Focus Groups will be held over Zoom & will include the same educational content as well as time for Q&A.

IPM is an ecosystem-based process for pest management that combines multiple strategies, providing a “toolbox” approach that you can tailor to your unique context. You can learn more about IPM at the [UC IPM website](#).

Please register [here](#). This is a free event. Please email Ellie Andrews (UCCE Specialty Crops Advisor) with any questions at eandrews@ucanr.edu.

Cucumber Beetle IPM Strategies

We will discuss the following IPM options in the Focus Groups. You do not need to do everything on this list. Instead, you can select the strategies that make sense for your context and tailor them to your specific goals. Some strategies may be more effective than others at controlling cucumber beetles below economically detrimental thresholds.

- **Exclusion via Floating Row Covers:** create a physical barrier
- **Transplants:** can help give plants a head start
- **Mulch:** can help discourage egg laying around plants
- **Crop selection:** planting tolerant crops where pressure is high
- **Scouting & Monitoring:** keep track of population levels & locations
- **Thresholds:** set an action threshold that is appropriate for your operation, such as a specific number of beetles per area prompt you to take a specific IPM action
- **Record-keeping:** use maps, sketches, notes, etc. to track populations & damage
- **Remove debris:** reduce habitat
- **Perimeter trap cropping:** distract with more appealing crops such as Hubbard squash
- **Promote natural predators:** create habitat to encourage predators
- **Insect vacuums:** a modified leaf blower can vacuum up beetles on a small area
- **Kaolin clay:** repels beetles by gumming up their antennae, impairing navigation
- **Insecticidal product options:** *always read the product label & follow instructions*
 - Most effective for the early pre-emergent grub stage of cucumber beetles:
 - Products using beneficial nematodes (such as NemaSeek)
 - Products using the fungus *Beauveria bassiana* (such as Mycotrol)
 - Spinosad, a natural substance made by bacteria (various products available)
 - These present relatively lower risks to pollinators
 - More options:
 - Azadiractin, an extract from the neem tree (such as AzaGuard)
 - Pyrethrin, an extract from chrysanthemum flowers products (such as Pyganic)
 - Bear in mind these will affect beneficial insects too

For more details, please see the [UC IPM Cucumber Beetle](#) website. Mention of any products and active ingredients here serve merely as examples, not endorsements. This outline was written by Ellie Andrews, UCCE Specialty Crops Advisor, July 2024.