



Garden Advisory
Squash Bugs
Anasa tristis

I was advised of a bug, not seen before in the garden, appearing on some zucchini plants. Upon inspection, they appear to be squash bugs.

From my research, our hot, dry summer might be one of the reasons we are seeing this pest.

A few tips:

what's
your
carbon
footprint?

- Adult squash bugs are very difficult to kill. Early detection is key.
- Prevent overwintering sites. Rototill you soil in fall. Compost or burn old squash vines.
- Mulches provide protective cover for squash bugs, resulting in worse damage. Consider planting over bare soil.
- In large amounts or when crushed, squash bugs give off a foul odor. You should wear gloves when removing these bugs.

There are several natural control options. **Please remember this is an organic, pesticide free garden. Please do not use harsh chemical sprays or pesticides.**

- 1) Praying mantises are one of the best deterrents. They eat the eggs and nymphs.
- 2) Place newspaper, a board or shingle in the garden at night. During the night, both adults and nymphs will congregate underneath the board. Squash between two hard surfaces in the morning and dispose.
- 3) Handpick bugs off and dispose of.
- 4) You can use an insecticidal soap spray or create one using imitation vanilla extract and water.
- 5) Diatomaceous earth/pyrethrins applications around the base of the plant can be an effective method to control squash bug and is a treatment allowed in Certified Organic vegetable production.

For more information and other remedies visit:

- <http://extension.illinois.edu/hortanswers/detailproblem.cfm?PathogenID=112>
- <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05609.html>
- <http://www.almanac.com/content/squash-bug>