

The infamous Squash eating bug(s)...

This advice is not for the faint hearted... It is graphically violent... It's time to watch for squash bugs, those hideous grey-black cucurbitae suckers, with an even more hideous stench when squished – which is pretty much the only way to destroy them. We go on patrol morning and evening watching for the adults, their eggs on the under sides of leaves and along the stems (they are brown/bronze in clusters-they can be brushed off or crushed.), and the babies, initially tiny black legged spider-like and then becoming greenish with black legs. Grotesque little buggers. Chickens won't eat them `cause they stink so much. Adults can be knocked into a can of water and then dispatched but we have found that immediate squishing is the most effective treatment. Staying on top of them to reduce their population has saved our squash harvest for years.

Other people at Bountiful Gardens use Diatom Dust to keep the “lil’ buggers” at bay (or kill them) and we recommend you don't use overhead watering after application of Diatom Dust. Also, try to minimize the areas that the squash bugs can hide – ie. Compost that is not broken down completely; leaves; wood ...