

Problem: Harlequin bug, *Murgantia histrionica*



Host Plants: Cabbage, collards, horseradish, mustards, and turnips. May also feed on potatoes, tomatoes, and okra.

Description: Both the adults and nymphs feed on plant sap of plants in the cabbage family and can cause distortion of the head, or bud drop, on Brussels sprouts. Severe infestations can cause plants to wilt, turn brown and die. Often populations peak and fall quickly. The adult is a flat, shield-shaped stink bug about 3/8 of an inch long with red and black markings on its back. The nymph, though smaller and more round, has the same markings.

Recommendations: Carbaryl (Sevin Dust) and cyfluthrin (Baythroid, BioAdvanced Vegetable & Garden Insect Spray) can be used for control. Note waiting period before spraying.

References:

1. [Harlequin Bug](#), K-State Research and Extension, Department of Entomology, MF 3135
2. [Harlequin Bug](#), University of Florida, EENY-25

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