Problem: Stink Bug (many species) Damage on Tomato

Host Plants: All tomatoes.

Description: Small, white spots appear on tomato fruit. This is a condition known as 'cloudy spot' and is a common problem during summer. It is caused by the feeding of stink bugs on developing tomato fruit. Stink bugs injure the developing fruit by probing the fruit; where their probing occurs, the pigments don't develop -- thus, the cloudy spot or a whitish-yellow spot. If you look very closely, you should see a small feeding hole in the center of each spot. It takes only one or a few bugs, they usually move in and out in a short period of time, and usually a control measure is impractical or impossible.

Recommendations: Fortunately, the feeding period of stink bugs is short so that tomatoes are affected for a short time only then will get back to normal. The use of the fruit is not affected in any way so they are safe to can or eat fresh.

References:
1. Common Tomato Fruit Disorders, Vegetable MD Online, Cornell University
2. Tomato Insect IPM Guidelines, UK Entomology, University of Kentucky

Last Update: 1/22/2020

Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

“Knowledge for Life”
Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service