(UC IPM)

# Cucumber Beetle IPM Strategies

*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:** track population levels & locations on plants or traps
- **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 like 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
- **Organic Insecticidal product options:** *always read instructions on product label*
  - Beneficial nematodes that kill larvae (such as NemaSeek)
  - *Beauveria bassiana*, a biopesticidal fungus (such as Mycotrol)
  - Spinosad, a natural substance made by bacteria (various products available)
  - Azadiractin, an extract from the neem tree (such as AzaGuard)
  - Pyrethrin, an extract from chrysanthemum flowers (such as Pyganic)
  - Bear in mind that products applied above-ground can affect beneficial insects

*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.*