

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Harlequin bug

Scientific Name: *Murgantia histrionica*

Order and Family: Hemiptera; Pentatomidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	.5mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Eggs have the appearance of white barrels that have 2 black lines around them-Eggs are usually laid in batches of about 12-Eggs will hatch between 4-29 days-Lifecycle is about 50-80 days long
Larva/Nymph		<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Bright color similar to adults-Have a rounded shape-Antenna have no color at first but get darker as they molt-The head is light orange at the first instar then changes gradually to black at last instar-5 instars
Adult	9.5mm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Bright red or orange color with varying amounts of black and white-Have a shield shaped body-The adults overwinter-3 or 4 generations a year
Pupa (if applicable)		

Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.): Piercing-sucking

Host plant/s: Harlequin bugs eat plants mostly from the Brassicaceae family of plants, namely cabbage, mustard, turnip, radish, cauliflower, collards, and horseradish. In addition they might eat other plants like beet, bean, fruit trees, field crops, asparagus, and weeds but they prefer to eat crucifers.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adult and nymphs of the harlequin bug damage plants by sucking the juices out of the plants with their piercing-sucking mouthparts. The place where they feed on the plant becomes cloudy, almost like a spot. Leaves can look like they have stipples from the many pierced places the bugs feed on the leaf. The specific damage they cause is wilting and distortion of the plant. The damage makes the plant turn brown or yellow as it wilts and then die. The harlequin bug is a significant pest of cabbage plants and mustard plants, especially if it is not controlled. Whole crops of cabbage or other plants can be devastated by the damage from these insects.

References:

Cranshaw, W. (2014). *Garden Insects of North America: The Ultimate Guide to Backyard Bugs*. Princeton University Press.

Knox, A., M. (2015, October). Harlequin bug- *Murgantia histrionica* (Hahn). Retrieved from http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/harlequin_bug.HTM.

The Harlequin Bug Fact Sheet (2015, November) Lincoln University Cooperative Extension – Integrated Pest Management Program. Retrieved from <http://lincolnu.edu/web/programs-and-projects/ipm>.