

SQUASH BUG PREFERENCE CHART

Here is a chart of the squash most susceptible to them.

C. pepo includes all the "summer squash"—i.e., preferred culinary use is before maturity—most "pumpkins," and hard-shell keepers like acorn, as well as novelties such as spaghetti squash. However, "Cushaw pumpkins" are *C. moschata*, and some "white pumpkins" are *C. maxima*. Sometimes giant orange varieties, such as *C. maxima*, are marketed as pumpkins.

A 1990 study at Oklahoma State University of ovipositional preference by squash bugs found a decided preference for yellow straightneck and crookneck (*C. pepo*), as compared with zucchini, acorn, spaghetti (all *C. pepo*), and butternut (*C. moschata*).⁽¹⁵⁾ Other studies have found a squash bug preference for *C. maxima* and *C. mixta* over some types of *C. pepo*. Acorn squash and all the *C. moschatas* are quite tolerant of squash bug damage.^(16, 17) Cocozelle (*C. pepo*) has been identified as an extremely susceptible sub-type of zucchini. A research study in Texas found *C. foetidissima* extremely distasteful to squash bugs, as well as to humans.⁽¹⁸⁾

The University of Illinois rated the susceptibility of twelve varieties (types) of squash on degree of resistance to squash vine borer attack. The list corresponds almost exactly to the four sub-types of squashes cultivated in the U.S. A rating of 1 indicates most resistant to vine borer; a rating of 5, least resistant.⁽¹⁹⁾

Cultivar Preference of Squash Vine Borer		
Variety or Type	Rating	Scientific name
Blue Hubbard (Hubbard type)	5	<i>C. maxima</i>
Boston Marrow (Hubbard type)	4	<i>C. maxima</i>
Golden Delicious (Hubbard type)	4	<i>C. maxima</i>
Connecticut Field pumpkin (ornam.)	4	<i>C. pepo</i>
Small Sugar pumpkin (ornamental)	4	<i>C. pepo</i>
Zucchini	4	<i>C. pepo</i>
White Bush Scallop	3	<i>C. pepo</i>
Acorn	3	<i>C. pepo</i>
Summer crookneck	2	<i>C. pepo</i>
Dickenson pumpkin	2	<i>C. moschata</i>
Green striped cushaw	1	<i>C. mixta</i>
Butternut	1	<i>C. moschata</i>

Also, see the ATTRA publication *Organic Pumpkin and Winter Squash Production*.