



## Green Capsid Bug

This pest infests all fruit stocks. It is widespread and often abundant. The adult Capsid Bugs are approximately 6mm long, bright green in colour, similar to greenfly, but can be distinguished from the latter because their wings, when folded form a distinctive diamond shape at the rear of the insect. They also have the ability to run quickly over foliage causing severe damage to both the leaves and shoots.



### DAMAGE:

On soft fruits, capsid bugs appear on the plants in early May when they feed between the unopened leaves at the tips of the shoots and canes. They cause brown spots which later turn into holes when the leaves are fully expanded. When severe infestations occur, crop yields can be reduced considerably and the shoots and canes can cease growing altogether or branch out with secondary growth. On gooseberries, fruits become cracked and scarred and frequently drop prematurely. On strawberries the pest also feeds on the flowers and

developing fruits, causing distortion of the flesh sometimes described as cat-faced fruits (shown on the left).

On apples, pears, plums and cherries, the capsid bug feeds on the leaves, causing brown spots to develop which later turn into holes. Corky, pitted scars may also form on attacked fruits (see right), severely disfiguring them.

### CONTROL:

Be vigilant, inspect plants carefully from around mid May and as soon as the first signs of its presence are seen, spray. Apples should be sprayed just after the flowers have fallen.



### Commercially available organic sprays

The following sprays are derived from plants or other natural substances and although effective, will require more frequent applications than when using synthetic pesticides, as they have a shorter persistence. Working on contact, care should be taken to thoroughly spray both the top and undersides of leaves.

**Sprays based on natural pyrethrum/pyrethrins** which is derived from the flowers of a member of the Chrysanthemum genus *Tanacetum cinerariifolium*.

**Pyrol Bug & Larvae Killer** – concentrate or ready to use.  
Defenders Bug Killer

## **Commercially available synthetic pesticides**

Synthetic pesticides generally give a higher level of control however care must be taken when using on edible plants in respect to the number of applications being made and the length of time that should be left between spraying and harvesting.

The following synthetic sprays can be used on selected fruit trees, canes and bushes including apple and pear trees, raspberry canes and strawberry plants.

Westland Resolva Bug Killer (*Lambda cyhalothrin*) – concentrate or ready to use

Bayer Sprayday Greenfly Killer (*Deltamethrin*)

**Bayer Garden Provado® Ultimate Fruit & Vegetable Bug Killer** (*Deltamethrin*) - concentrate or ready to use.

## **USE CHEMICALS SAFELY: ALWAYS READ THE LABEL**

When using chemicals it is most important to follow the manufacturer's instructions precisely. Only use on the fruits that are listed on the manufacturer's label. An accurate weighing machine and measuring cylinder should be obtained. Chemicals can be wasted by making concentrations unnecessarily strong or by making them too weak and ineffective. Furthermore, if chemicals are too strong they may cause damage to the foliage.