

Mexican Bean Beetle

Epilachna varivestris Mulsant (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)

(Origin: Central America, Mexico, Caribbean)



Mexican Bean Beetle Adult

Primary Host: Beans, soybeans.

Damage: Larvae and adults feed on underside of leaves giving them a lacy appearance. May also attack pods when abundant.

Management: One beetle per plant or 30% defoliation justify use of pesticide.

Biocontrols: Naturally occurring predators may help reduce numbers.

Cultural Controls: Delayed planting may reduce beetle populations.

Physical Controls: Hand picking works for small plots. Heavy rains help knock off adults and larvae from plants.

Chemical Controls: Contact your local Penn State County Extension Agent for more information. <http://www.extension.psu.edu/extmap.html>

Insect Description:

Adults: Round shaped and copper colored with 16 spots on its back. About $\frac{5}{16}$ " long and $\frac{1}{4}$ " wide.

Pupae: About $\frac{1}{4}$ " long, yellowish, with traces of spiny larval skin attached.

Larvae: Yellow, oval, covered with branched spines. $\frac{7}{16}$ " long when full grown.

Eggs: Oval, yellow, laid in clusters on underside of bean leaf.

Life History: Eggs are laid from late spring through early fall and hatch in 5-14 days. Young larvae feed on underside of leaves and older larvae eat through the leaves leaving only the veins. Pupae are attached to undersides of leaves of beans or nearby weeds and develop in about 10 days. Adults live 4-6 weeks during the active season, and late season adults hibernate in woodland areas or where crops have not been plowed under.



Spined Soldier Bug feeding on Mexican Bean Beetle Larva