

Colorado Potato Beetle

Leptinotarsa decemlineata (Say) (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)

(Origin: Central America, Mexico, Caribbean)



Colorado Potato Beetle Adult

Primary Host: Potato, tomato, eggplant, pepper.

Damage: Adults and larvae feed on leaves and terminals, causing reduced growth or death of plant.

Management: Needed primarily during flowering for potatoes.

Biocontrols: A lady beetle (*Coleomagilla maculata*), and a predaceous stinkbug feed on the eggs.

Cultural Controls: Crop rotation prevents overwintering beetles from emerging directly in the fields. Till in fall to reduce damage.

Physical Controls: Mulches and trenches, and hand picking and row covers are effective.

Chemical Controls: Contact your local Penn State County Extension Agent for more information.

<http://www.extension.psu.edu/extmap.html>

Insect Description:

Adults: About $\frac{3}{8}$ " in length; oval shaped. Cream colored with 10 black stripes on the back.

Pupae: Located in soil.

Larvae: Early stages are crimson with black legs and 2 rows of black spots on sides of body. Later stages are orange and appear bloated and humpbacked.

Eggs: Deposited in orange clusters of 20-45 oval-shaped eggs under leaves.

Life History: Overwintering adults emerge in late May, begin to feed and mate. Eggs laid in June hatching in about 1 week. 2 weeks later, mature larvae drop to ground and pupate. A week later, adults emerge and begin the 2nd generation. New adults in late July or August may feed a few days then begin winter hibernation in the ground.



Colorado Potato Beetle Larva