

Colorado Potato Beetle

Leptinotarsa decemlineata

This pest feeds primarily on potato, but will attack other plants in the nightshade family.



Adult beetles — about 3/8 inch long and are yellowish-orange with multiple black stripes — overwinter in the soil and emerge in the

spring when potato plants are coming up. Females lay clusters of yellow eggs on the underside of leaves, and the brick-red larvae feed on leaves before pupating in cells in the soil. There are generally 2 generations per year in Wisconsin.

Control

- Plant early maturing varieties to avoid much of the damage caused by midsummer adults.
- Handpick adults and larvae off plants and destroy, and remove or crush the eggs.
- Use BT (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *tenebrionis*) against young larvae only.

Provided by

wimastergardener.org



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Additional Resources

Colorado Potato Beetle

- UW-Extension Publication A3678, *Colorado Potato Beetle*, at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Colorado-Potato-Beetle-P559.aspx>

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