URBAN AGRICULTURE INFORMATION PESTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

- 🖒 📔 FLEA BEETLES



Adult crucifer flea beetle



Larva is creamy white



Sticky cards trap adults and may reduce damage

CROPS AFFECTED

Multiple vegetable crops

- · Cabbage · Broccoli
- · Kale
- · Tomato · Egaplant
- · Lettuce · Beans

- · Collard
- · Corn · Potato · Arugula
- · Radish



Leaf damage resembles buckshot holes

DAMAGE

- · Adults feeding cause most damage.
- · Young plants are most at risk to defoliation or death by a heavy population.
- · Characteristic damage are small holes resembling buckshot holes.
- Mature plants usually can tolerate moderate pest pressure unless a large amount of leaf or stem damage causes decreased production.

DESCRIPTION

- · Several different species can be problematic.
- · Species are very small (1/16 to 1/8 inch). The exception is the spinach flea beetle which is a bit larger.
- · Species vary in color from black, bronze, bluish, or brown to metallic gray. Some species have stripes.
- · Flea beetles can both fly and jump great distances due to their enlarged hind legs.

LIFECYCLE

- · Adults overwinter in leaf litter or similar organic matter.
- · Adults become active with warmer temperatures and lay eggs on or around the host plant.
- · Larvae feed on the host and then pupate in the soil.
- · Adults emerge to feed on the host plant through the season then overwinter in plant debris.
- There can be one to two generations per year.

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