



What is Destroying My Crop? Colorado Potato Beetle Edition



Larva Stage



Damaged Plant - Iowa State University



Adult Beetle

Colorado Potato Beetle Scientific Name: *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (Say)

Evidence suggests it is native to either Northern Mexico into the Southwestern US or just the Colorado area

Attacks primarily Solanaceae crops (Potatoes, Tomatoes, Eggplant, and Tobacco)

Can also be found in non-crop plants such as wild nightshades, and its native host, the buffalo-bur.

Excessive damage to crops was reportedly first noted in the 1850's in Nebraska and continues to cause millions of dollars of damage to crops today.



Buffalo Bur
Solanum rostratum Dun.

Life Cycle of the Colorado Potato Beetle

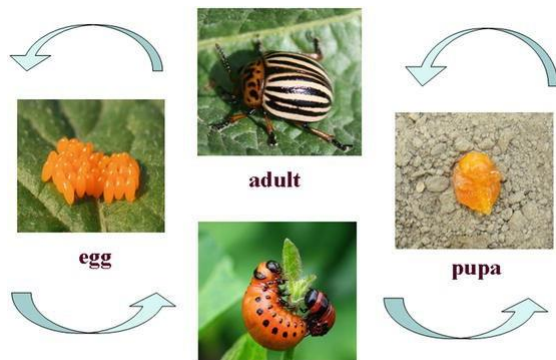


Photo from: Invading Nature - Springer Series in Invasion Ecology

Control Methods:

Non-Chemical:

- *Crop Rotation
- *Trenches with steep slopes (keeps beetle from walking up to plants)
- *Biological Controls
- *Hand removing from plants and squish or drown beetle

Chemical:

- *Specific combination of insecticides (beetle can become resistant to common insecticides quickly) used at correct life stages of the beetle.

*For an example on chemical use and timing scan the QR Code to look at a post by Iowa State University:



A great resource with more information: Featured Creatures by University of Florida Entomology and Nematology

https://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/veg/leaf/potato_beetles.htm