

PEST ALERT FOR FLEA BEETLES

Adult flea beetles are very tiny-just 1/10 inch long . They are black, brown, or bronze with enlarged hind legs. They jump like fleas when they are disturbed.

Flea beetles attack most vegetables, particularly cabbage family plants, potatoes, and spinach.They also feed on flowers and weeds.

You can recognize flea beetle damage by small, round holes the adults chew through leaves. These beetles are most damaging in early spring. Heavy infestations can kill seedlings.



Flea beetle populations can be monitored with yellow sticky traps. The number of beetles found in traps corresponds to the amount of feeding damage occurring nearby. Scouting for damage should occur every 1-2 days in newly planted fields, because flea beetles can quickly become a problem for young plants.

Organic Control:

- 1.Plant susceptible plants as late as possible to avoid the most damaging generation.
- 2.Cover seedlings and potato shoots with floating row covers until adult beetles die off.
- 3.Flea beetles like full sun, so interplant crops to shade susceptible plants.
- 4.Lightly cultivate the soil before and after planting to destroy eggs and larvae in the soil.
5. For cole crops the threshold is not determined yet, contact WF office for determining if organic spray is needed or not.

Threshold

Eggplant	< 3" = 2 beetles/plant
	3-6" = 4 beetles/plant
	> 6" = 8 beetles/plant