



Viburnum Leaf Beetle (*Pyrrhalta viburni*)

This insect has the potential to become a serious pest in nurseries and landscapes. First found in NW Pennsylvania in 2001 & has slowly worked west. In 2017 it was confirmed in the Midwest. The adults are yellow-brown, 1/4" long. Mature larvae are under 1/2" long, shiny greenish-yellow to white w/ black spots.

Symptoms

The larvae feed aggressively on the underside of newly expanding foliage. The mature beetles feed on lower leaves, skeletonizing leaves to the mid ribs and leaving major veins intact. Larvae pupate underground. As adults emerge they feed on the leaves and have the ability to completely defoliate shrubs. Heavy infestations with defoliation will cause dieback and complete plant death. These beetles only feed on Viburnums with Arrowwood and Cranberrybush as their preferred plants.

Life Cycle

By mid-May, the eggs hatch and the larvae start feeding. In early to mid-June mature larvae move into/under the soil to pupate. In early to mid-July mature larvae emerge from soil to begin feeding again. Complete development from egg hatch to adult emergence is 8-10 weeks. From summer through fall adults are mating, laying eggs on terminal twigs and feeding until first frost. Females can lay up to 500 eggs each summer. There is only one generation per year.

Management

Twigs with egg masses can be pruned out in October-April. In early spring a dormant oil can be applied that can reduce the population 75-80%. Additionally, an Imidicloprid soil application can be done in early spring or fall. The larvae can be treated April-May with a spray insecticide. In late June-October, if the adults are present, another round of spray insecticide can be applied. Resistant varieties include Korean Spice, Burkwood, Doublefile and Judd Viburnums that can be planted.



Pyrrhalta viburni- Viburnum Leaf Beetle

