



Viburnum Leaf Beetle

Pyrrhalta viburni

**IL CAPS
TARGET**

Importance: The viburnum leaf beetle has the potential to become a serious pest in nurseries and landscapes. Larvae and adults both feed on plants belonging to the genus *Viburnum*, skeletonizing leaves. Heavy infestations will defoliate shrubs, cause dieback, and eventual plant death.



Viburnum Leaf beetle Larva



Adult Viburnum Leaf Beetle

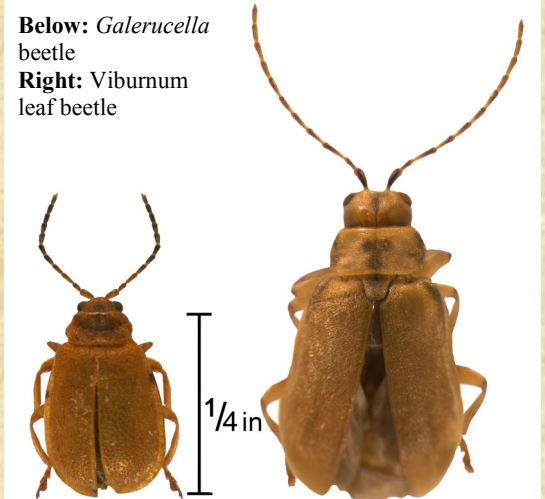


Viburnum Leaf Beetle Damage

Identification: Viburnum leaf beetle adults are 1/4-3/8 inches long. These beetles are golden brown in color and have a sheen when the beetle is held in the sun. The sheen is produced by a thick, golden-grey hairs covering it's body.

****There are no similar species found feeding on viburnum. The *Galerucella* beetle (biological control agent for purple loosestrife) looks similar, but is smaller (~1/8-1/4 inches long) and does not attack viburnum plants.****

Lifecycle: VLB overwinters as eggs until the May when they hatch. Larvae are bright greenish yellow and later develop black spots. The larvae feed on leaves of host shrubs, skeletonizing the leaves and causing defoliation. In June, larvae drop to the soil to pupate. The adults emerge from the soil in July and return to the host plants to feed, once again causing damage and defoliation. During the summer, females will lay eggs in cavities dug in new growth of the host plants. After filling the cavity with eggs it is capped with plant fiber, spit and feces. Egg laying continues until the first frost.



Below: *Galerucella* beetle
Right: Viburnum leaf beetle

If you suspect you've seen this insect or to submit a sample, please contact the Illinois Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey



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