

A Bug's Life

Asparagus beetles

Common asparagus beetle - *Crioceris asparagi*
Spotted asparagus beetle - *Crioceris duodecimpunctata*

Fun facts

- Spotted asparagus beetle is less common in NE
- Active just as spears come out of soil in spring (May), continue after plants fern out
- Overwinter as adults in debris
- Multiple generations per season

Host plant

- Asparagus

Identification

Damage: Distortion of spears, browning, scarring

Eggs: Dark brown, laid on spears, ferns or flower buds, attached at end

Larva: Slug-like, light gray to black color, visible legs and black head

Common asparagus beetle: 1/4" long, oval-shaped, bluish-black with cream-colored squares/ spots (distinct but variable), red thorax with blue spots

Management

- Scout plants between 12 and 4pm
- Handpick beetles beginning in May, destroy eggs and remove larvae
- Garden sanitation in fall to remove overwintering sites
- When needed, organic options include pyrethrins, neem oil and spinosad; synthetic options include carbaryl and pyrethroids



Photos: J. Green