A Bug's Life

Bean leaf beetle
Cerotoma trifurcata

Fun facts
- Fall off plant when disturbed
- Adults active May through July
- Eggs laid and larvae develop in soil
- Adults overwinter in leaf litter

Host plants
- Legumes, including green beans, soybeans, clover and other weeds

Identification
Damage: Round 1/8" diameter holes on leaves, may feed directly on pod, defoliate young plants tissue (larger plants are tolerant to feeding)
Beetle: 1/4" long, oval-shaped, yellowish-green or reddish orange with 4 black spots, wing margin and triangle at top of wing covers

Management
- Delay planting until June or July
- Scout plants between 12 and 4pm
- Garden sanitation in fall to remove overwintering sites
- When needed, organic options include pyrethrins, neem oil and spinosad; synthetic options include carbaryl and pyrethroids

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Photos: J. Green

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