

A Bug's Life

Flea beetles

Family: Chrysomelidae, Eggplant flea beetle - *Psylliodes* species

Fun facts

- Shiny beetles that jump
- Adults active May through August
- Eggs laid and larvae develop in soil
- Overwinter as adults in leaf litter

Host plants

- Eggplant, radishes, peppers, spinach, tomatoes, potatoes, beet and others

Identification

Damage: Shot-hole damage (looks like leaves were blasted by shotgun), young plants may show wilting and stunting

Beetle: 1/10" long, oval-shaped, shiny black or brown but various colors, enlarged hind legs for jumping (like fleas when disturbed)

Management

- Install floating row covers*
- Garden sanitation and weed control
- Rotate location of crops
- Kaolin clay film as barrier on plant
- When needed, organic options include pyrethrins, neem oil and spinosad; synthetic options include malathion, carbaryl and pyrethroids



Photos: J. Green

*Row covers should be removed or pulled back when plants flower to allow for pollination