A Bug's Life

Three-lined potato beetle

*Lema daturaphila*

**Fun facts**
- Injury to tomatillos can be severe, usually minor on potato and tomato
- Larvae cover themselves with excrement for protection
- Overwinter as adults in leaf litter

**Host plants**
- Tomatillo, potato, tomato and others in nightshade/Solanaceae family

**Identification**

- **Damage:** Defoliation to leaves
- **Eggs:** Yellow eggs, laid in groups on underside of leaves
- **Larva:** Slug-like, brownish-gray, visible legs, black head, covered in frass
- **Beetle:** 1/4" long, orange-yellow, 3 lengthwise black stripes, orange thorax with black spots

**Management**
- Usually found on weeds in garden
- Handpick beetles, remove eggs and larvae from leaves into soapy water
- Install floating row covers*
- Garden sanitation and fall clean up
- When needed, organic options include pyrethins, neem oil and spinosad; synthetic options include carbaryl and permethrin

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