

BE CAREFUL OF BLISTER BEETLES!

Blister beetles exude a chemical called cantharidin which can induce a painful blister on our skin, often occurring on arms, necks, behind ears, and in between fingers



There are several common species including the ash-grey, the striped, and the black blister beetle



As larvae blister beetles feed on grasshopper eggs, helping keep those pests in check. As adults they damage numerous plants including alfalfa, carrot, cabbage, eggplant, pepper, potato, squash, tomato, lupine, iris, hostas, and rose



They cause irregular chewing damage where leaves are ragged and missing edges, the damage can appear suddenly



A painful blister left behind after exposure to cantharidin

Blister beetles can be physically controlled by hand removal. Wear rubber gloves to protect your hands, and throw the beetles in to a bucket of soapy water. Organic insecticides like neem, pyrethrins, and spinosad provide short term control and will require multiple applications. Synthetic insecticide options include bifenthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin, carbaryl, or permethrin. Always check the label of the product you purchase to ensure the pest is listed, as well as the plant you wish to protect.

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