

URBAN AGRICULTURE INFORMATION
PESTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

PEST: FLEA BEETLES



5
Flea beetles cause damage to seedlings



6
Flea beetles damage leaves and roots of host plants



7
Eggplant flea beetle feeding

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Cultural - no spray

- Crop rotation out of susceptible families may reduce populations.
- Row cover can be used if placed prior to adult egg laying but requires removal to allow pollination.
- Mustard, daikon, and radish have been used as trap crops.
- Strong healthy transplants usually can withstand more damage and stay productive over direct seeds crops.
- A Braconid wasp, *Microctonus vittatae*, is a potential as a biologic control along with general beneficial predators like lacewings.
- Delay planting to avoid the adult heavy feeding periods.
- Mulch may act to inhibit egg laying period by overwintered adults.
- Sticky cards can help manage low populations.

Organic pesticides

- Scouting (looking) for adult flea beetles should start in spring to detect.
- Several OMRI approved pesticides are available for flea beetle control including neem oil, pyrethrum, and spinosad.



8
Potato flea beetles can damage tubers

Synthetic pesticides

- There are wide variety of non-organic insecticides are available for control of flea beetles. Contact your local Extension office for options in your state and appropriate use.

When using pesticide product, ensure the product is labelled for the insect you are trying to manage and well as the type of plant to be treated. When using pesticides, whether **organic or synthetic**, follow the instructions on the label. **The label is the law.**