



Viburnum Leaf Beetle

The Viburnum Leaf Beetle is an established pest in the northeastern United States and is making its way to the Midwest. It has recently been found in both Cook and DuPage counties. Both the larvae and adult stages of this beetle will skeletonize viburnum leaves. This beetle prefers non-pubescent (hairless) leaf varieties of viburnum, especially dentatums and trilobums.

Life Cycle

Eggs overwinter on twigs of the plant and begin to hatch in May. The larvae usually feed in groups and can be seen on the leaves. In early to mid-June, the larvae drop to the ground and pupate. The adults emerge from the soil in mid to late July when they begin feeding on the leaves. Females begin laying eggs in late summer and fall.

Identification

Viburnum Leaf Beetles will eat leaves between the midrib and larger veins. It is the only known pest to skeletonize viburnum leaves. Larvae are $\frac{1}{2}$ " long, shiny, greenish-yellow with dark dots. Adults are $\frac{1}{4}$ " to $\frac{3}{8}$ " long, golden-brown in color and have a sheen when in sunlight. Eggs will be deposited in holes chewed by the females. The holes will be close together, in a straight line along the twigs and covered with a darker cap. These will be especially easy to identify once the plant has dropped its leaves.

Management Strategies

1. Prune out and destroy infested twigs before eggs can hatch. This can be done in late fall through early spring.
2. Prevent eggs from hatching by spraying horticultural oil before the plant leafs out in spring.
3. Use contact insecticides or soaps on larvae and adults when you see them. Be careful to avoid spraying beneficial insects in the process.



Plugged Egg Cavities



Viburnum Leaf Beetle Larvae



Adult Viburnum Leaf Beetle