

(revision date:5/18/2015)

Asparagus: Asparagus beetle

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Two species of beetles feed on asparagus. Both are about 1/4" long. The asparagus beetle is blue-black, with yellow and red markings. The overwintering adult beetles feed on emerging spears in the spring, sometimes causing distortion of the spears. The females lay dark brown eggs on the foliage. The larvae are dark gray or greenish, with dark heads. They are up to 1/2" long and feed on the foliage. The spotted asparagus beetle is orange to reddish with black spots on the back. The adults feed on foliage, where the females lay greenish eggs. The larvae are orange and feed inside the berries.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Pick off eggs, adults and larvae when noticed.
- ~ Pick off beetles. They can be destroyed or placed in the garbage.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

Follow the product label instructions for minimum timing from last application to harvest.

Listed below are examples of pesticides that are legal in Washington. Always read and follow all label directions.

- ~ Bonide Pyrethrin Garden Insect Spray Conc.
 - active ingredient: pyrethrins
 - EPA reg no: 4-371
- ~ Bull's-Eye Bioinsecticide
 - active ingredient: spinosad (spinosyn A+D)
 - EPA reg no: 62719-314-56872
- ~ Safer Brand BioNEEM Multi-Purpose Insecticide & Repellent Conc [Organic]
 - active ingredient: azadirachtin
 - EPA reg no: 70051-6-42697
- ~ This list may not include all products registered for this use.

Asparagus: Asparagus beetle

Images



~ Caption: *Asparagus beetle*
~ Photo by: *Unknown*