



Tips for Managing Lily Leaf Beetles

Description

- Adult: 1/4 to 3/8 inch long; bright scarlet body; black legs, head, antennae, and undersurface.
- Eggs: Reddish-orange, laid in irregular lines on the undersides of leaves.
- Larva: Slug-like; swollen body; black head; covered with slimy, black feces.
- Pupae: Florescent orange, found in the soil.



Prevention

- Choose plants wisely. Adults will only lay eggs on true lilies (*Lilium* spp.) and *Fritillaria* species. Varieties of daylilies (*Hemerocallis* spp.) would be good substitutes.
- Carefully inspect host plants and bulbs before purchasing or transplanting to new geographic locations.

Management

- Look for adults on leaves and stems beginning late March to early April and throughout the growing season.
- Handpick adults and place into a bucket of soapy water. Placing a light colored cloth under the plant will make it easier to see the beetles when they fall off. They tend to

drop off if disturbed, landing upside down. Their dark undersides provide excellent camouflage.

- Look for egg masses and larvae from early April on.
- Crush egg masses.
- Handpick larvae and place in soapy water. You may wish to wear disposable gloves due to the “yuck” factor.



Least Risk Pesticides

- Apply neem (Bioneem®, Neemix®, Azatin®) weekly to repel beetles and kill larvae. (*No product endorsement is implied.*)
- Do not use chemical pesticides if foraging bees are present.

Further Management Options

Contact the Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office (1-800-287-0279), your county Extension office, or visit <http://www.gotpests.org/>.

Photo credits: Adult: Lisa Tewksbury, University of Rhode Island, ipmimages.org. Larvae & eggs: Richard A. Casagrande, University of Rhode Island, ipmimages.org.



<http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/ipmcouncil>

**Promoting least risk pest control for
a greener environment**

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