

## Pest Profile



**Photo credit:** Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

**Common Name:** Alder Flea Beetle

**Scientific Name:** *Macrohaltica ambiens*

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae

**Size and Appearance:**

	Length (mm)	Appearance
<b>Egg</b>	1.25mm	Yellow or orange in color, oblong shaped
<b>Larva/Nymph</b>	10mm	Dark brown to shiny black with black setae and nodules on abdomen
<b>Adult</b>	5-6mm	Metallic greenish-blue or cobalt blue in color
<b>Pupa (if applicable)</b>	5mm	Starts bright orange to yellow, darkens over time.

**Type of feeder (Chewing, sucking, etc.):** Chewing mouthparts

**Host plant/s:** Alder leaf beetles feed on species of Alder and occasionally willows and poplars

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** Both adults and larvae feed on the leaves of the Alder trees. Larvae skeletonize the foliage which reduces upper surface of the leaves. Adults feed by chewing holes through the leaves. In large enough numbers, whole patches of the tree can turn brown with the possibility of complete defoliation. However, lasting damage is rare and the alder flea beetle does not typically cause economic loss.

**References:**

Randall, C. B. (2010). Management Guide for the Alder Flea Beetle. Forest Health Protection and State Forestry Organizations. United States Department of Agriculture.

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5186816.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5186816.pdf)

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<http://oregonstate.edu/dept/nurspest/alder%20flea%20beetle.htm>

Woods, W. C. (1917). The Biology of Alder Flea-beetle. Harvard University.