

Pest Profile



Photo credit: (Adult) Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org; (Larva) Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Crucifer Flea Beetle

Scientific Name: *Phyllotreta cruciferae*

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.38-0.46mm	Oval shaped and yellow in color
Larva/Nymph	3mm	White, cylindrical worms with small legs and a brown head
Adult	2-3mm	Oval, black with bright blue sheen on elytra (hardened forewings). Enlarged hind femora
Pupa (if applicable)	2-3mm	White with black eye spots and appendages

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

Host plant/s: Narrow range of hosts in the Cruciferae family with strong preference for *Brassica* genus.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): These beetles prefer to feed on *Brassicas*, which are intended crops with a large range of commercially grown plants. Canola is a preferred host, which is a major crop in the Midwest. Crop loss is associated with early feeding on the cotyledons and first set of true leaves. Larvae feed below the soil line or sometimes on foliage, and adults feed on foliage where they produce shot hole damage and can defoliate plants.

References:

Knodel, J. J. & Olsen, D. L. (2002). Crucifer Flea Beetle- Biology and Integrated Pest Management in Canola. North Dakota State University.

<http://agresearch.montana.edu/wtarc/producerinfo/entomology-insect-ecology/CanolaFleaBeetles/NDSUFactSheet.pdf>

Parker, J. E. & Snyder, W. E. (2017). Managing Cruciferous and Solanaceous Flea Beetles in Organic Farming Systems. Extension.org. <https://articles.extension.org/pages/72972/managing-cruciferous-and-solanaceous-flea-beetles-in-organic-farming-systems>