

Pest Profile



Photo credit: Natasha Wright, Cook's Pest Control, Bugwood.org

Common Name: Grape Flea Beetle

Scientific Name: *Altica chalybea*

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg	0.65-1mm	Yellow to orange in color, oval shaped with round ends
Larva/Nymph	7-9mm	Dark brown color, fading to light brown with age
Adult	4-5mm	Although appearing black, these flea beetles have metallic blue-green sheen.
Pupa (if applicable)	4-6mm	Bright yellow coloring with noticeable reddish-brown eyes

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

Host plant/s: Primarily wild and cultivated grapevines and Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adult beetles overwinter by boring into swelling buds which are hollowed out in the process. Damage to primary and secondary buds affect fruit production, which is when loss becomes evident. Overwintered females lay eggs in the spring on the underside of leaves and the larvae and subsequent adults feed on the leaves. Leaf damage is not of economic importance as damage is negligible. Grape flea beetles are usually the first insect to appear at vineyards in the springtime.

References:

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Taschenburg, E.F., & Riedl, H. (1985). Grape flea beetle-*Altica chalybea*. *Grape Insect IPM Insect Identification sheet No. 6*. United States Department of Agriculture.
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