

## Pest Profile



Photo credit: Tom Murray, Bugguide.net

**Common Name:** Mexican Bean Beetle

**Scientific Name:** *Epilachna varivestis*

**Order and Family:** Coleoptera: Coccinellidae

**Size and Appearance:**

|                             | Length (mm) | Appearance   |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|
| <b>Egg</b>                  |             | -Bright yellow in color<br>-Laid on-end in clusters of 40-60 on the lower leaf surfaces  |
| <b>Larva/Nymph</b>          | 1-9mm       | -Yellow or orange-yellow in color<br>-6 rows of black branched spines  |
| <b>Adult</b>                | 6-9mm       | -Oval shaped and slightly larger than other ladybeetles<br>-Dark yellow to copper to reddish brown in color depending on the season<br>-8 spots on each wing arranged in a 3-3-2 pattern |
| <b>Pupa (if applicable)</b> | 6-9mm       | -Yellow-orange<br>- Similar to larva but lighter in color<br>-Spiny larval skin pushed down to point of attachment to plant  |

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

**Host plant/s:** The Mexican bean beetle can be found in gardens and bean fields on lima beans, snap beans, clover, and alfalfa. Occasionally the beetles will feed on soybeans and cowpeas.

**Description of Damage (larvae and adults):** The Mexican bean beetle larvae and adults feed on the underside of the leaves between the veins, leaving behind a lacy skeleton appearance as the leaves die. The adult beetles will feed on the leaves until they become unappealing, then they will eat the blooms, stem, and green bean pods.

**References:**

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