

Pest Profile



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Common Name: Tobacco flea beetle

Scientific Name: *Epitrix hirtipennis*

Order and Family: Coleoptera, Chrysomelidae

Size and Appearance:

	Length (mm)	Appearance
Egg		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• tiny• white
Larva/Nymph	1 – 4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• white• slender• dark head
Adult	1.4 – 2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• small• entirely black or brown to black• hard-shelled• wing covers have rows of fine but distinct punctures
Pupa (if applicable)		

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

Host plant/s: The feeding seriously injures tobacco, potato, and eggplant. Occasionally injury is observed on tomato, pepper, and related plants.

Description of Damage (larvae and adults): Adult beetles chew small holes in the leaves, giving them a sieve-like appearance. The larvae feed on underground parts of their host plants. Tobacco is seriously

damaged both in the seedbed and in the field. Adult feeding substantially reduces the market value of tobacco grown for cigar wrappers.

Reference:

Davidson, R. H., & Lyon, W. F. (1987). *Insect pests of farm, garden, and orchard* (No. Ed. 8). John Wiley & Sons.

Roberts, P. M. & G. K. Douce. (1999) Weevils and Borers. A County Agent's Guide to Insects Important to Agriculture in Georgia. University of Georgia, Col. Ag. Env. Sci. Cooperative Extension Service, Tifton, GA, USA.