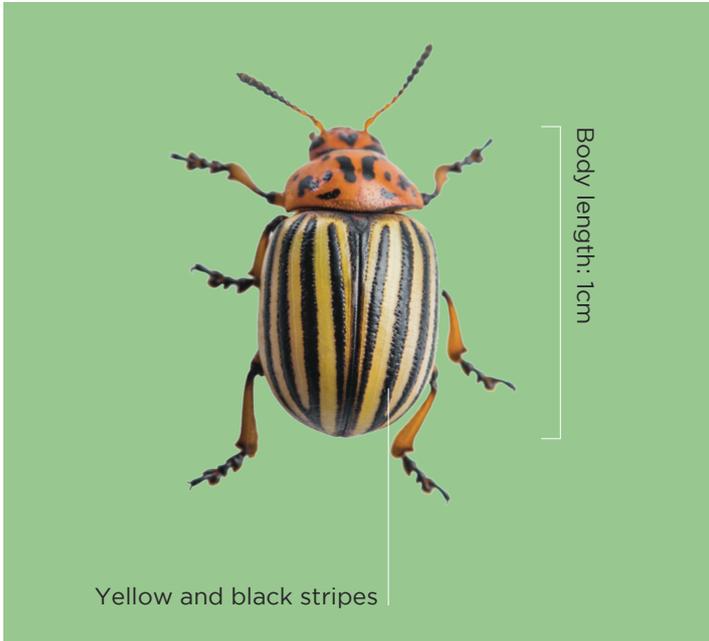


FACT SHEET

Colorado potato beetle



ADULT COLORADO POTATO BEETLE



YOUNG COLORADO POTATO BEETLES

Young beetles are red and roughly the same size as adult beetles.



COLORADO POTATO BEETLE DAMAGE

Colorado potato beetle damage to potato. Image courtesy of Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org.

The Colorado potato beetle is one of Australia's most unwanted exotic pests. It affects potatoes, tomatoes, eggplants, capsicums, wild weeds and other nightshade plants.

If Colorado potato beetle establishes itself in Australia, it could cause economic and environmental harm, damage edible plants in home gardens or community gardens, and threaten Australia's horticultural industries.

Help protect your garden, your home, the environment and our industries by keeping an eye out for the Colorado potato beetle!

WHERE ARE THEY FOUND?

The Colorado potato beetle is found in North America, Europe and Asia. They can commonly be found on leaves and in the surrounding soils of commercial farms and home gardens. Whilst they are not found in Australia, they could hitch a ride here via cargo, imported produce, and machinery.

WHAT DAMAGE DOES IT CAUSE?

The most obvious symptoms that might indicate Colorado potato beetle are rough holes in the leaf. They can strip a plant of all its leaves and, in severe cases, cause it to die.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE FOUND A COLORADO POTATO BEETLE?

Beetles are usually found by shaking the plant and checking the ground underneath, or checking nearby weeds. Eggs are laid in groups of 25-30 on the underside of a leaf.

FUN FACT: This pest produces black, sticky waste as shown in image of young beetles.

If you suspect Colorado potato beetle in your garden, report it to the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline on 1800 084 881.

For more information on the Urban Biosecurity Program, contact Madeleine Quirk at AUSVEG on 03 9882 0277.