

# Colorado potato beetle

Recognized as one of the most destructive potato pests, the Colorado potato beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*) can easily defoliate plants if left unmanaged, causing reductions in yield.

## Identification:

**Adults:** Yellow-orange with 10 black stripes along the length of their wing covers; typically 3/8" long and 1/4" wide, rounded in shape.

**Larvae:** Orange-red with black heads and legs, and black spots on the sides of their bodies.

**Eggs:** Yellow clusters, turning dark orange near hatching, laid in groups of 10 or more on the underside of leaves.

## Key Facts

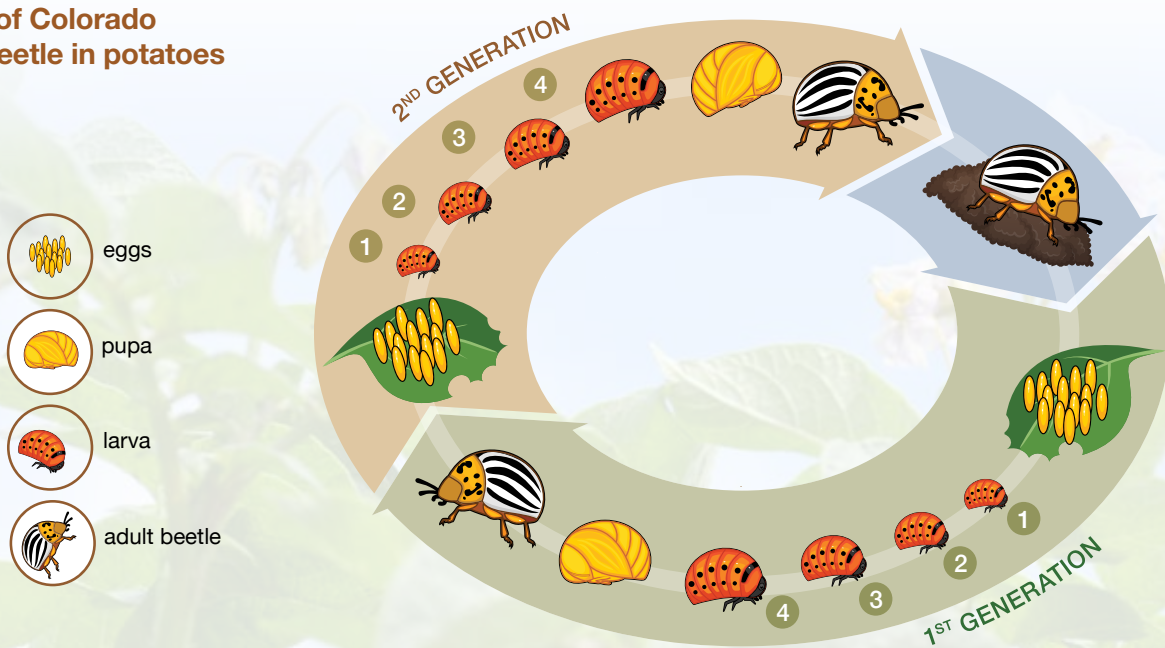
Adult beetles overwinter in soil and emerge in spring. The first signs of infestation and feeding damage occur on the edges of potato fields, close to overwintering sites, where the females mate, feed and lay eggs on leaves. Females can lay up to 400 eggs during their lifespan of 4-5 weeks, and depending on the temperature, the eggs hatch into larvae in 4-15 days.

Young larvae feed on the undersides of leaves before migrating to the top of the plant where they feed on young, tender leaves. Mature larvae will drop off the plant and pupate below the soil surface. Newly emerged adults, known as the second generation, appear and aggressively feed on plants to build energy for overwintering. Multiple generations (typically 2-3) are possible depending on seasonal temperatures and the region.

Colorado potato beetles are easily identified on warm, sunny days when they are feeding on the top of plants but often hide under leaves or in the soil on cooler days.



## Lifecycle of Colorado potato beetle in potatoes



# Protect your potatoes before damage strikes

Colorado potato beetle is well-known for developing resistance to insecticides, making effective resistance management strategies essential to maintain control options and protect yields.

## How to manage Colorado potato beetle



### Scout early:

Check field edges for feeding damage and egg clusters.



### Rotate modes of action:

Use different IRAC groups to prevent resistance.



### IPM practice:

Using a generational window strategy is also an important resistance management tool.



### Monitor regularly:

Multiple generations mean ongoing scouting is essential.

## Syngenta solutions

Product	IRAC Group	Timing	Rate
CruiserMaxx <sup>®</sup> Vibrance <sup>®</sup> Potato	4	Seed treatment for early season protection	32.5 mL/100 kg seed
Actara <sup>®</sup> 240SC	4	Seed treatment or in-furrow application for flexible early season protection	<b>Seed treatment:</b> 197.6 mL/ac <b>In-furrow:</b> 3.4–4.4 mL/100 m of row
Minecto <sup>®</sup> Pro	28 + 6	Foliar insecticide for in-season control	225-270 mL/acre

## Managing insecticide resistance

	'Early' window		'Late' window (foliar)
	Emerging adults (seed or in-furrow)	Escapes (foliar)	
Year 1	Actara <sup>®</sup> 240SC CruiserMaxx <sup>®</sup> Vibrance <sup>®</sup> Potato (Group 4)	Minecto <sup>®</sup> Pro (Group 6 + 28)	Group 5
Year 2	Actara <sup>®</sup> 240SC CruiserMaxx <sup>®</sup> Vibrance <sup>®</sup> Potato (Group 4)	Group 15	Minecto <sup>®</sup> Pro (Group 6 + 28)

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