

Elm Leaf Beetle



Summer coloration form of elm leaf beetle

Typical Location When Observed: In homes from fall through mid-spring. Outdoors on elm trees during the growing season.

Geographic Location: Potentially where ever elms grow. Highest populations in recent years have occurred in the Arkansas Valley.

Importance/Damage: Nuisance pest in homes during cool season. Adults and larvae chew elm leaves.

Distinguishing Features: The adult elm leaf beetle is about 6-7 mm long with an elongate oval body. The semi-dormant stages that occur indoors are generally a dark khaki green color. Actively developing stages on their elm host during the growing season acquire a lighter color that is predominantly yellow.

Look-Alikes: There are other similar leaf beetles that develop on sage (*Trirhabda* spp.) And tamarisk (*Diorhabda elongata*), but these never enter buildings. Elm leaf beetles may superficially resemble in shape and size certain dermestid (carpet) beetles of the genus *Trogoderma*. The latter are distinguishable by having clubbed antennae and a uniformly dark brown coloration.




Overwintering elm leaf beetles exposed in wood pile

Resources: This insect is covered in more detail in Extension Fact Sheet 5.521, *Elm Leaf Beetles*.

Scientific Name: *Xanthogaleruca luteola*

Order: Coleoptera (Beetles)

Family: Chrysomelidae (Leaf Beetles)

Actual Length


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