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 wherever 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.

**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)

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