URBAN AGRICULTURE INFORMATION
PESTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

PEST: FLEA BEETLES

Adult crucifer flea beetle

Larva is creamy white

Sticky cards trap adults and may reduce damage

CROPS AFFECTED
Multiple vegetable crops

- Cabbage
- Broccoli
- Collard
- Kale
- Corn
- Potato
- Tomato
- Eggplant
- Arugula
- Lettuce
- Beans
- Radish

Leaf damage resembles buckshot holes

DAMAGE

- Adults feeding cause most damage.
- Young plants are most at risk to defoliation or death by a heavy population.
- Characteristic damage are small holes resembling buckshot holes.
- Mature plants usually can tolerate moderate pest pressure unless a large amount of leaf or stem damage causes decreased production.

DESCRIPTION

- Several different species can be problematic.
- Species are very small (1/16 to 1/8 inch). The exception is the spinach flea beetle which is a bit larger.
- Species vary in color from black, bronze, bluish, or brown to metallic gray. Some species have stripes.
- Flea beetles can both fly and jump great distances due to their enlarged hind legs.

LIFECYCLE

- Adults overwinter in leaf litter or similar organic matter.
- Adults become active with warmer temperatures and lay eggs on or around the host plant.
- Larvae feed on the host and then pupate in the soil.
- Adults emerge to feed on the host plant through the season then overwinter in plant debris.
- There can be one to two generations per year.