



Adult Elm Leaf Beetle Photo Courtesy of: Salvador Vitanza Texas A&M AgriLife CEA IPM

# Elm Leaf Beetle

*Xanthogaleruca luteola*

## HOW TO PROTECT YOUR ELM TREES

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### IDENTIFICATION

Adult beetles are about 1/4 inch long and light yellow to brownish green in color. Several black spots decorate the head and thorax and a broad black stripe follows the outer margin of each wing. Females lay yellow-orange pointed eggs that look like miniature lemons in clusters of 5 to 25 on the undersides of elm leaves. Newly hatched larvae are black and slug like.

## HABIT

In spring shortly after foliage emerges, adult beetles fly to elm trees which are their only food source. They eat holes in new leaves and deposit eggs. A week later, larvae hatch and begin eating the green portions of leaves leaving behind brown skeletal remains. On the South Plains, 3 or more generations of this pest occur each year. Heavily infested trees will have sparse foliage riddled with holes and a rusty, reddish brown tint. Severe infestations for consecutive years can cause limbs or the entire tree to die. Elm Leaf Beetles do not transmit Dutch elm disease. In the winter, adult beetles seek shelter in any warm dry place.



Eggs of Elm Leaf Beetle Photo Courtesy of: Salvador Vitanza  
Texas A&M AgriLife CEA IPM



Damage of Elm Leaf Beetle Photo Courtesy of:  
West Texas Nursery- Texas Forestry Service

## CONTROL

Early detection of the beetle makes it possible to spray trees before significant damage occurs. Begin checking newly emerged foliage in April for eggs and young larvae. Apply foliar spray insecticides, fully covering all leaf surfaces, when most of the eggs have hatched. Another approach to controlling Elm Leaf Beetle is to use systemic insecticides in late March or early April.

**Elm Leaf Beetle Control Recommendations**

<b>Ingredient</b>	<b>Trade Name</b>
acephate	Orthene® AceCap®
<i>Bacillus thuringiensis var. tenebrionis</i>	Novodor®
bifenthrin	Talstar® 1
carbaryl	Sevin®
chlorpyrifos	Dursban® 2
cyfluthrin	Tempo® 1 Decathlon® 1
cypermethrin	Demon® 1,3 Cynoff® 1,3
disulfoton	Di-Syston®
imidacloprid	Merit® Bayer Advanced Garden Tree & Shrub Insect Control
lambda-cyhalothrin	Scimitar® 1 Demand® 1
permethrin	Dragnet® 1,3
phosmet	Imidan® 1
spinosad	Conserve®
tralomethrin	Saga®

<sup>1</sup> For commercial use only.

<sup>2</sup> Dursban products are no longer being sold. Use existing stocks as directed on the product label or learn how to dispose of them by contacting your local or state hazardous waste disposal program.

<sup>3</sup> Use on outside surfaces and around buildings only.

Insecticide labels are subject to change and changes may have occurred since this publication was printed. The insecticide user is always responsible for the effects of insecticides on his own property, as well as problems caused by drift from his property to that of others. *Always carefully read and follow the instructions on the insecticide label.*