

**Problem:** Asparagus Beetle - *Crioceris asparagi*



**Host Plants:** Asparagus

**Description:** Asparagus beetle overwinters as an adult in trash near the garden. Asparagus beetle adults are a blue/black beetle with a red prothorax with yellow spots. The larvae are a soft, greenish grub. Both feed on asparagus spears by chewing the tips and spear surfaces -- leading to scarring and staining of the spears. Eggs are laid on developing spears with the eggs being small, elongated and black - sticking out longways from the side of asparagus spears.

**Recommendations:** Early control of beetles is important to reduce feeding damage later. Handpicking and dropping the beetles in soapy water can be effective if the planting is limited in size. Malathion will also provide control (a one-day wait before harvest is required). Some products with permethrin such as Eight Vegetable, Fruit & Flower Concentrate and Hi-Yield Garden and Farm Insect Spray are also labeled but require a 3-day waiting period between spraying and harvest.

**References:**

1. [Asparagus Beetles](#), University of Minnesota Extension

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