

ELM LEAF BEETLE—*Pyrrhalta luteola*

HOSTS: American and Siberian (Chinese) elms

IDENTIFICATION, LIFE CYCLE, AND DAMAGE: Small larvae are black and hairy; large larvae are yellow with two longitudinal dark stripes. Adults are 5 to 7 mm long, yellowish-green, and have a black stripe on the outer margin of each wing cover. Three black spots are present behind the head.

Elm leaf beetles overwinter as adults in sheltered dry areas, especially in and around buildings and in litter and bark crevices. They emerge when buds begin to expand in the spring and feed on leaves before laying clusters of yellow eggs on foliage in late spring.

Larvae skeletonize leaves for 2 to 3 weeks before pupating. There are two or three generations per year. Shade trees are often heavily defoliated, making them weak and unsightly.

CONTROL: Spray elm leaves with carbaryl or methoxychlor to kill larvae and adults. Do not spray when the weather is hot and dry. Inject systemics recommended by your extension service into the trunk or apply them to the soil. Spray and pupae larvae clustered at the base of the tree with carbaryl or methoxychlor, or pour boiling water or a light oil on them.



Elm leaf beetle eggs, larvae, and adult on damaged leaf