

## Advice Notes for Pest Control



## COLORADO BEETLE

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This pest is not established in the UK but is a notifiable pest. It is prohibited in the UK and any sightings *must* be reported. It may arrive in this country by 'hitchhiking' in plant produce from overseas, such as potatoes, salads, etc.

### What does it look like?

The adult beetle is very distinctive. It is about 10mm long and has 10 alternate black and yellow stripes running down its back. In shape it represents an overgrown ladybird. Immature Colorado beetles or larvae are between 3mm–10mm long with black heads and a deep orange/brown to pinkish red bodies. They are freely mobile and feed on potato foliage or other solanaceous (potato family) weeds, leaving an oily black excrement. The larvae should not be confused with the similarly coloured pupae of ladybirds, which are similar in colour and shape but are immobile.



### Where to report findings of Colorado beetle

Any findings need to be reported as quickly as possible to the local DEFRA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector. Ask the customer to contact them directly.

Plant Health Division

Room 336 Foss House,

Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green,

York YO1 7PX

Tel: 01904 455189

Fax: 01904 455199

Out of hours reports should be directed to the Defra Duty Room Tel 020 7270 8960

### Information they will require

Name, address and daytime telephone number of the finder. Date, number and location of the beetles found and whether they were dead or alive. If found aboard a ship, the name of the ship and where it's docked. The host/plant material or other item that the beetles were found on. Any further information that will give clues about the beetle's country of origin, e.g. mark/brands on packaging.

You may be asked to send the beetle(s) in a padded envelope by post, together with confirmation of the details above, and with any accompanying packaging to the Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ.