

# Pest Alert Red Lily Beetle

## Beetle Has Lily Growers Seeing RED



### Red Lily Beetle Facts:

- Found regionally in New England
- Only lay eggs on lily species including tiger lilies, and fritillaria species
- Adult beetles are bright red in color and are ¼ to 3/8 inches long
- *Adults will “Squeak” if squeezed gently!*
- Adults are strong fliers and excellent at hiding in the garden
- Larva feed heavily on lily leaves and then move to flower buds and flowers
- Mating and egg laying occur in late March through June and eggs hatch in 7-10 days

Lily growers in New England are seeing red when it comes to this destructive insect pest that harms their lily plants. The **Lily Leaf Beetle (AKA Red Lily Beetle)** is a native of Europe. It was first noted in the US, in Cambridge Massachusetts in the summer of 1992. The Lily Leaf Beetle damages plants by feeding heavily as both a larva and as an adult. It feeds exclusively on lily plants, but it does not feed on Daylilies. Just a few larvae can destroy a lily bed in a very short time.

Both larva and adult LLB are susceptible to a number of different pest control products. However, there is some concern about harming beneficial insects, especially bees, with a broad application of insecticide at the time that bees are visiting the plants.

Experts are now recommending a treatment plan focused on using some less impactful products. The first is NEEM, a naturally occurring bio-pesticide which is extracted from the seeds of a tree found in Southeast Asia. Neem is the active ingredient in **Bonide Bon-Neem**, which is available in both a concentrate formulation and an easy to apply ready to spray applicator. Neem controls both the adult and larval form of the Lily Leaf Beetle, and is also effective as a repellent for egg laying adult beetles.

The second recommendation is a product containing Imidacloprid insecticide such as **Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub Insect Killer**. Imidacloprid is a systemic insecticide which is applied as a drench, reducing the chances of drift to non-target plants. Once it's in the plant's sap system, it will protect lilies for up to a full year against the Lily Leaf Beetle and other leaf and flower devouring insects.

Other effective insect controls are Pyrethroid-containing sprays including **Bonide Beetle Killer Ready Spray** which contains Lambda-Cyhalothrin.

When applying chemical controls for Lily Leaf Beetle control, be sure to follow the label directions including timing, temperature and wind conditions.

### Bonide Control Products for Lily Leaf Beetle



#### Beetle Killer

- Kills beetles on contact
- Acts fast to control heavy feeders like Lily Leaf Beetle
- Twist & Shoot sprayer allows gentle application of insecticide to tender flowers
- Contains Lambda Cyhalothrin



#### Bon-Neem Insecticidal Soap

- Derived from NEEM seed oil
- Recommended for control of Lily Leaf Beetle
- Natural bio-pesticide controls insects, mites and diseases
- Water based for safety



#### Annual Tree and Shrub Insecticide

- Systemic insect control in a low drift drench formulation
- Provides long term protection for the entire growing season
- Less impact on beneficial insects – Must be ingested to work
- Contains Imidacloprid