

Colorado beetle (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata*)

A serious threat to potatoes.

It **spreads** from countries where it is present through the **import of potatoes** and as a **hitchhiker on produce such as leafy vegetables, salad leaves and fresh herbs**.

Native to North America, it is now **present in parts of Europe and Asia**.

It is **not present in the UK**. If established, it could **reduce potato yield by 20 to 100%**.

Adult beetles:

- are between 6 and 12mm long
- have a distinctive black and yellow striped pattern
- are oval-shaped and very shiny

Larvae:

- are between 1.5 and 15mm long
- are pink, red or orange in colour
- have two rows of black spots along each side

Look out for signs of feeding damage on the leaves and stems of potato, tomato, aubergine or pepper plants.

If you suspect it, report it by visiting <https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/> or use the QR code.



Adult beetle © Crown Copyright



Larva © Crown Copyright



Larvae feeding on potato leaves © Yuri Kalinin (RU)



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