



## Bean leaf Beetle in Michigan

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Bean leaf beetles (BLB) are present every year in soybeans, but rarely in damaging numbers. Adult beetles are very distinctive – ranging in color from greenish to yellow to red, with a black triangle behind the head, a black edge around the abdomen, plus four black, square spots on the abdomen. Adults overwinter in leaf litter and wooded field margins. In the spring, these adults emerge and eventually move to soybean fields to feed. The adults chew round holes in the leaves. Young soybeans (V1-V2 stage) can tolerate considerable injury – up to 50 percent defoliation – without yield loss. Published thresholds for V2 soybean range up to 6 beetles per plant because soybeans can compensate for early defoliation. Thus treatment is generally not needed at this point in the season, unless defoliation across the entire field is over 50 percent and there are multiple beetles per plant. The main concern with BLB is actually for damage by the summer generation later in the season. At that point, the beetles feed on pods, damaging developing seeds.

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