

PEST ALERT

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Viburnum Leaf Beetle

Pyrrhalta viburni (Paykull)



Damage to foliage caused by larval and adult viburnum leaf beetle. (R. Childs)



Damage to viburnum twig caused by egg laying female viburnum leaf beetle. (D. Dick)



Damage to viburnum twig caused by egg laying female viburnum leaf beetle, side view. (D. Dick)



Viburnum leaf beetle larvae feeding on underside of leaf. (P. Weston)

The viburnum leaf beetle, *Pyrrhalta viburni* (Paykull), is native to Europe and has become a serious pest of viburnum plantings and nursery stock in the Northeast US. This pest has spread as far south and west as Ohio and is expected to be detected in West Virginia in the next few years.

Life Cycle

In Europe and North America, *P. viburni* overwinters as an egg. After hatching, the larvae and subsequent adults feed on viburnum leaves. In early summer, adult females chew small holes in viburnum twigs and small branches to lay eggs in. The twigs and branches chosen are generally the current year's growth.

Damage

Both the larvae and adults of *P. viburni* feed on the undersides of viburnum leaves, causing them to become skeletonized. Typically the first leaves to show damage are low on the plant with the feeding damage extending to the upper leaves as the year progresses.

P. viburni also causes oviposition damage in the small twigs and branches of viburnums. This damage appears as a row of deep rounded cavities, later appearing as small cankers. The twigs and branches chosen are generally the current year's growth.

Host Plants

A wide variety of native and ornamental viburnums may be susceptible to this pest. In Canada, the European cranberrybush viburnum is most commonly attacked. This pest has also been reported on mapleleaf viburnum, Guelder rose and American cranberrybush viburnum.

For more information or to report suspected infestations, contact:

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