



## Flea Beetle Assessment and Identification

### Assessment of Flea Beetles and Damage

- Flea beetle management requires regular scouting as flea beetles can damage plants very quickly. The economic impact of flea beetles will vary from year to year and area to area.
- Yield loss of up to 10% is common where flea beetles are abundant.
- Flea beetles will feed on both canola and mustard crops as well as weeds such as flixweed and wild mustard.
- Sunny, warm, dry weather increases flea beetle feeding activity.
- Adult flea beetles feed on the surfaces of leaves, stems and pods and produce small pits. In cool conditions, feeding can also occur on the underside of leaves and on stems.
- Past the four-leaf stage, the plants are generally established and can outgrow the feeding damage.
- Economic threshold for flea beetle feeding on canola is when there is 25% defoliation and flea beetles are present. At this time, an application of a foliar insecticide should be considered.



Feeding damage causing notches at leaf edges and small circular feeding pits.



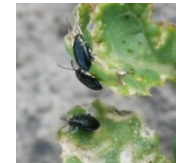
Feeding damage on the lower stem.

### Flea Beetle Identification

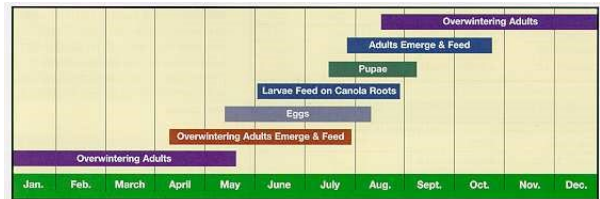
- Scout fields in the spring and assess damage to cotyledons and the first true leaves of seedlings daily. Continue scouting up to at least the four-leaf stage, especially on sunny, calm days when temperatures exceed 14°C.
- Adult flea beetles can be observed in the spring and again in the fall as they emerge and feed on mature canola plants and weeds.
- There are two economically important flea beetle species in canola.
- Crucifer Flea Beetle:** Completely black with a metallic sheen. Typically emerges later in the spring than striped flea beetle
- Striped Flea Beetle:** Black with distinct stripes on either side of the back. Typically emerges earlier in the spring than crucifer flea beetle



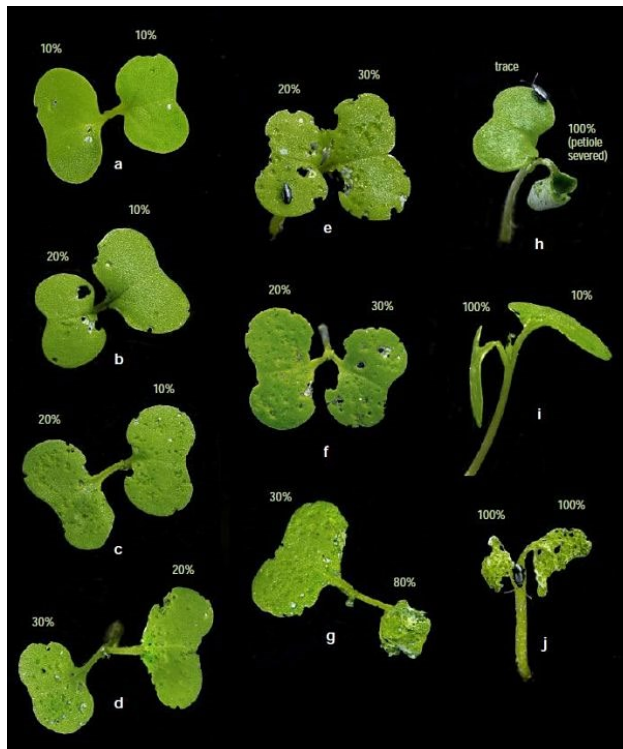
Striped Flea Beetle



Crucifer Flea Beetle



Flea Beetle Life Cycle (courtesy Government of Saskatchewan)



Young canola plants with identified levels of flea beetle damage (courtesy Agriculture and Agrifood Canada)

