

Viburnum Leaf Beetle

Viburnum leaf beetles feed on many varieties of viburnum. Some varieties are more susceptible, such as the arrowwood and American cranberry viburnums. This pest is potentially serious, as it can defoliate your viburnum. In the early spring, you may see larvae eating the tissue on the underside of leaves. As spring turns into summer, adult beetles chew oblong holes into leaves. When planting viburnums, it is best to plant only a few at a time to promote diversity.

Larvae



Adult Beetles



To kill younger beetles, use Bonide Systemic Insect Spray, applying in early spring. Viburnum beetle populations can also be controlled preemptively. From October to April, you can remove egg laying sites on your viburnum to control next year's population. Look for small scabs occurring in rows on the tips of your viburnum branches. Cut off the last few inches of the branch and dispose of the clippings. **Do not compost the waste.**



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Japanese Beetles

Japanese beetles are a common garden pest that feed on leaves and flowers of more than 300 plant species. These beetles typically emerge in late June/early July in Illinois. Common signs include:

- Lacy leaves with only veins remaining
- Holes or missing petals on flowers
- Clusters of shiny, metallic green beetles around ½ inch across

In serious cases, plants can become defoliated.



Japanese beetles can be hand-picked off of plants. You can also place a container of soapy water underneath the leaf they are chewing on and shake the leaf. The soapy water ensures the beetles will die when collected. Pheromone traps are not recommended because they attract more beetles than can be trapped.

You can also reduce larvae populations for next year by reducing irrigation in your garden around the time eggs are laid (mid-July through August).

Aphids

Aphids can affect a large variety of plants, feeding on soft new growth.

Symptoms include:

- Honeydew, making the leaves feel sticky
- Curled leaves
- White exoskeletons on leaves
- Clusters of small insects on flower buds or on the bottoms of leaves

Aphids may stunt your plant's growth by removing nutrients, making it more susceptible to diseases. The honeydew produced by aphids may also attract other pests.

Some aphids can be blasted off of a plant using a strong stream of water from your hose. Pre-mixed solutions like the BioAdvanced Rose & Flower Care or Bonide Eight Yard & Garden are also great at controlling aphid populations.

Top: Curled leaves; Bottom left: honeydew; Bottom right: aphids on underside of leaf



Leaf Miners

Leaf miners are larvae that tunnel inside the leaves of a plant, eating the tissue between the top and bottom epidermis. The damage starts as elongated brown spots on the leaf, eventually spreading throughout the leaf and leading to defoliation. To test if you have leaf miners, hold the affected leaf up to the light. If you see larvae within the leaf, you have leaf miners. Fortunately, leaf miners only cause cosmetic harm, so insecticides are unnecessary.



Grubs

White grubs are the larvae of several types of beetles, including Japanese Beetles and June Beetles. Most grubs hatch around late summer and do the most damage in early August. A brown lawn is not necessarily caused by grubs. If you can lift up your lawn like a carpet and it does not have roots, however, it is likely that you have lawn grubs. Increased digging by wildlife, namely voles, may be another strong indicator.

Insecticides may be applied to your lawn to get rid of grubs. The active ingredients in your insecticide will tell you if you need to apply it during the spring (to kill larvae before they hatch) or in early fall (when grubs are active).

