

# Asparagus

## Asparagus Beetles

Asparagus beetles overwinter as adults in field debris, emerging in the spring as asparagus develops. Adults mate and feed on spears, with females laying clusters of 3-10 eggs near the spear tips. Adults continue feeding and laying eggs during the harvest season (May-June), but since spears are regularly harvested, the eggs don't develop into larvae until after harvest. Post-harvest, all beetle life stages are present, with larvae and adults feeding on the ferns, which reduces the plant's photosynthetic capacity. Larvae eventually pupate in the soil, there are 2-3 generations until adults overwinter starting in September. Beetles can be found by visually surveying plants.

*At Harvest:* Treat when 5-10% of plants are infested, or 2% of spears have eggs.

*At Fern:* Treat when 10% of plants are defoliated, or 50% of plants have larvae.

## Non-Pesticide

### Non-Pesticide Options

Regular harvest limits the number of eggs that survive to become a summer generation. Removing ferns in the fall reduces overwintering habitat in the field, forcing adults to overwinter in field edges, where more predation may occur. *Tetrastichus asparagi* is a tiny metallic green parasitoid wasp that preys on asparagus beetle eggs. Umbelliferous flowers blooming at time of oviposition may enhance parasitoid populations.

## Pesticide

### Assail 30SG | acetamiprid |

Use 30SG formulations at 2.5-5.3 oz. per acre. Use 70WP formulations at 1.1-2.3 oz. per acre. For control on spears during harvest, to prevent egg laying and feeding injury.

REI: 12-hour. PHI: 1-day. IRAC 04A .

### Dimethoate 4EC | dimethoate | 1 pt. per acre.

Use 4EC, LV-4 and 400 EC formulations at 1 pt. per acre.

REI: 48-hour. PHI: 180-day. IRAC 01B .

### Entrust SC | spinosad |

Use 2SC formulations at 4-6 fl. oz. per acre. Use 80WP formulations at 1.25-2.0 oz. per acre.

REI: 4-hour. PHI: 60-day. IRAC 05 . OMRI-listed.

### Lannate LV | methomyl | 1.5 - 3.0 pts. per acre. REI: 48-hour. PHI: 1-day. IRAC 01A . RUP.

### **Perm-Up 25DF | permethrin |**

Use 25W, 25WP or 25DF formulations at 3.2-6.4 oz. per acre. Use 3.2EC formulations at 2-4 fl. oz. per acre.

REI: 12-hour. PHI: 1-day. IRAC 03A . RUP.

### **Radiant 1SC | spinetoram | 4-8 fl. oz. per acre.**

Postharvest protection of ferns only.

REI: 4-hour. PHI: 60-day. IRAC 05 .

### **Sevin XLR Plus | carbaryl | 1-2 qts. per acre.**

Use low rate for control on seedlings and or spears during harvest, to prevent egg laying and feeding injury. Use high rate for control on fern growth after harvest is over.

REI: 12-hour. PHI: 1-day. IRAC 01A .

## **Japanese Beetle**

Japanese beetles have one generation per year, overwintering as grubs in the soil. In late June to August, adults emerge to feed, mate, and lay eggs, living for one to two months. Adults feed on many plants, including asparagus, and are active throughout the fern season. Japanese beetle feeding can reduce the amount reduce amount of energy produced by ferns. Control focuses on the adult stage. Scout for beetles by checking asparagus ferns. Note that beetles are often feeding when asparagus is flowering and attractive to bees.

### **Pesticide**

#### **Assail 30SG | acetamiprid |**

Use 30SG formulations at 5.3 oz. per acre. Use 70WP formulations at 2.3 oz. per acre. Apply to fern only after harvest has been completed.

REI: 12-hour. PHI: 1-day. IRAC 04A .

#### **Perm-Up 25DF | permethrin |**

Use 25W, 25WP or 25DF formulations at 3.2-6.4 oz. per acre. Use 3.2EC formulations at 2-4 fl. oz. per acre.

REI: 12-hour. PHI: 1-day. IRAC 03A . RUP.

## **Tarnished Plant Bug**

### **Pesticide**

#### **Assail 30SG | acetamiprid |**

Use 30SG formulations at 5.3 oz. per acre. Use 70WP formulations at 2.3 oz. per acre. Apply to fern only after harvest has been completed.

REI: 12-hour. PHI: 1-day. IRAC 04A .

**Perm-Up 25DF | permethrin |**

Use 25W, 25WP or 25DF formulations at 3.2-6.4 oz. per acre. Use 3.2EC formulations at 2-4 fl. oz. per acre.

REI: 12-hour. PHI: 1-day. IRAC 03A . RUP.

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