

Controlling lily beetles

THOSE PESKY LILY BEETLES are a menace this time of year. Jennifer Llewellyn, Nursery Crops Specialist for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, says the larval stage is protected by its slimy covering and the adult beetles are very difficult to kill. A direct spot spray of insecticidal soap may help to smother the adult beetles, but she says "You will likely have a higher rate of success with hand removal." In other words, pick them off and drown the things! Look for yellow-orange elongate, oval eggs crowded together and stuck to the undersides of leaves. Don't bother checking your daylilies, since this pest does not bother them. Look for the adults right now, crawling around emerging true lilies (Asiatic, Trumpet, Oriental, etc.) and also around fritillaria. It's important to kill the adults *before* they lay their egg masses. Lily leaf beetle has also been reported on Solomon's seal, bitterweet, potatoes, hollyhocks and some hostas, so be on the lookout!