

Blister Beetles in the Yard and Garden

Blister beetles have been aggregating and causing defoliation on trees and shrubs in yards and gardens. Some of the more common species present are those in the genus *Epicauta*.



Blister beetle defoliation. Photo by Maggie Joy.

Blister beetles in the genus *Epicauta* lay eggs in areas surrounding grasshopper eggs. The immature stage (larvae) will feed on these grasshopper eggs.



Blister beetles (*Epicauta* sp.) on honeylocust. Photo by Maggie Joy.

Management: Blister beetle infestations are temporary and generally only last for a few days. The damage rarely causes economic hardship to established or older trees. Management is often not necessary in these situations.

If chemical control becomes necessary, some active ingredients for adult blister beetle control for woody ornamentals include pyrethrins, carbaryl (products such as Sevin, Bonide Fruit Tree Spray, Bayer Complete Insect Killer for Gardens), and pyrethroids (active ingredients zeta-cypermethrin, gamma-cyhalothrin and lambda-cyhalothrin-some example products include Safer Yard & Garden Insect Killer II Ready-to-Use, Ortho Tree and Shrub Fruit Tree Spray, Ortho Home Defense Max Insect Killer for Lawns & Gardens Ready-to-Spray).

Please note: These recommendations are not intended for crops or rangeland.

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Disclaimer: These recommendations are provided only as a guide. It is always the pesticide applicator's responsibility, by law, to read and follow all current label directions for the specific pesticide being used. The authors and Montana State University assume no liability resulting from the use of these recommendations. The Montana State University Extension Service is an ADA/EO/AA/Veteran's Preference Employer and Provider of Educational Outreach.