

# Stop

# The Invasion



Photographs courtesy of Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



## Scarlet Lily Beetle

*Lilioceris lili*

Report Sightings

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July 2017

### What are they?

The scarlet lily beetle (also known as the lily leaf beetle) is a pest native to Eurasia that preys on true lilies and fritillaries. While all lilies are attacked, Asiatic lilies or hybrids and some native North American lilies tend to receive the most damage. Other plants that it is known to eat, though not as readily, include giant lilies (closely related to true lilies) false Solomon's seal, and twisted stalk. The beetles do not attack daylilies.

### Are they here yet?

Yes. Scarlet lily beetles have been found in Bellevue since 2012.

### Why should I care?

Scarlet lily beetles can severely damage homeowners' gardens and are known to voraciously attack native lily species. Preventing the current infestation from spreading is the most effective and least costly way to protect uninfested areas.

### What should I do if I find one?

Report a sighting online at [www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml](http://www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml).

### How can we stop them?

Removing beetles, larvae, and eggs throughout the growing season beginning in April is an effective way to limit the damage. Avoid transporting lilies, fritillaries, and other potential host plants long distances to limit the spread of this pest. The Washington State Department of Agriculture has begun a program to introduce a safe biological control agent, which has been very effective in controlling lily leaf beetle populations in the eastern United States.



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## What are their characteristics?

- Black underside, head, antennae, and legs; bright red backs.
- Adults may chirp or squeak if disturbed.
- About ¼-½ inch long.
- Small clusters of red/orange-brown eggs laid on underside of leaves.
- Larvae coat themselves in excrement, and appear dark and slimy.

## How do I distinguish them from native species?

The most likely insects that would be confused with the scarlet lily beetle are ladybugs, a beneficial predaceous beetle. Ladybugs are much more round, and usually have white dashes or black spots on their backs.

## Where do I get more information?

- WSU Extension Fact Sheet: [cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS084E/FS084E.pdf](http://cru.cahe.wsu.edu/CEPublications/FS084E/FS084E.pdf)
- Lily Leaf Beetle Tracker: [lilybeetletracker.weebly.com](http://lilybeetletracker.weebly.com)
- University of Maine Extension: [extension.umaine.edu/publications/2450e](http://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2450e)

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