



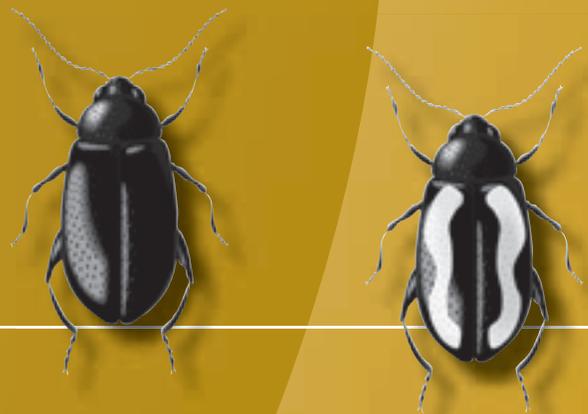
FACTS ON THE FLEA BEETLE

decis®

APPEARANCE

There are two types of flea beetle:

- Crucifer (2-3 mm/ 1/10 in., bluish-black) most prevalent in grassland areas of the prairies.
- Striped (2-3 mm/ 1/10 in., black with two wavy yellow stripes along the back) most prevalent in parkland areas of the prairies.



LIFE CYCLE

- Overwintering adults emerge in early spring to feed on crop.
- Eggs are laid in batches in late May, usually under trash cover, hatching in mid-June.
- Larvae feed on canola/mustard roots until they pupate. Adults then emerge in early August, feed and prepare to overwinter.
- Only one generation of flea beetles is produced each year.

BEHAVIOR AND DAMAGE

- Overwintering adults cause major damage to crops by attacking emerging seedlings; moving into fields after feeding on volunteer canola, flixweed, or peppergrass in summerfallow or fence rows.
- Infestations depend upon weather, with hot, dry conditions causing the most severe damage to already stressed seedlings. While seedlings can withstand feeding under good growing conditions, the damaged plant may be smaller and therefore delayed.
- Once crops reach 3-4 leaf stage, plants generally outgrow feeding damage.
- Beetles may be hard to spot due to small size and ability to “hop” off leaves quickly when disturbed. Feeding damage is easily recognized by “shot-hole” appearances on seedling leaves.
- Adults emerging in August may cause damage to canola if populations are high.

FIELD MONITORING

- Always scout fields to assess damage and estimate the pest population. Base your decision to spray on the economic threshold – does it pay to spray?
- Spraying is recommended if the feeding damage exceeds 25 percent of the seedling leaves – particularly in hot, dry weather.
- Daily inspection for flea beetles is recommended in newly emerged crops. Early detection may allow for spraying of fence rows and field edges only.



CONTROL

- **Fast contact kill:** Recognized as one of the fastest acting insecticides, Decis® insecticide controls beetles within a few hours of contact.
- **Wide temperature range:** Unlike many insecticides, Decis provides excellent control even at low temperatures.
- **Economical:** A low price per acre makes Decis one of the best crop protection buys available today.
- **Crop safety:** Tested in over 80 crops worldwide, Decis is crop safe regardless of the plant's development stage.
- **Low risk to animals and bees:** Application of Decis can be made with low toxicity risk to mammals and birds. Decis is one of the safest products to use where concerns exist regarding bee populations. In the case of bees, spray when they're not foraging, usually in the evening.
- **Active Ingredient:** Deltamethrin (50 g/L)
- **Rate (mL/ac):** 60 mL/ac recommended for optimal control
- **Rate (ac/jug):** 40 ac/2.4 L jug or 160 ac/9.6 L jug
- **Water Volume:** 10 gal/ac (ground) or 1-2 gal/ac (aerial)

ECONOMIC THRESHOLDS

- It is important to protect the canola plant during its early stages of development as this is when most flea beetle damage occurs.
- Canola seedlings can withstand 50% leaf loss. However, the economic threshold for control is 25%. Beyond 25%, leaf damage can reach a level where plant development and yield are substantially reduced.
- If a foliar insecticide is required, Decis provides excellent control.



First row: Canola seedlings in first leaf stage. Second row: Canola seedlings in two leaf stage.
Source: Ralph Underwood, AAFC Saskatoon

For more information on Decis, contact your local Bayer CropScience representative.



BayerCropScience.ca/Decis or 1 888-283-6847 or contact your Bayer CropScience representative.

Always read and follow label directions. Decis® is a registered trademark of the Bayer Group. Bayer CropScience is a member of CropLife Canada.

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