

VIBURNUM LEAF BEETLE - LIFE CYCLE

Design by: New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets

ADULT FEMALES lay eggs from late June to October or until the first killing frost. During a females life span, she lays up to 500 eggs on viburnum twigs and small branches by excavating deep, rounded pinhead sized egg cavities in a straight row on the under surface of the terminal twigs.



After filling the egg cavity with five to eight eggs, the female closes the opening with a lid or "cap" made of excrement and chewed bark held together by a mucous secretion that hardens upon exposure. The cap not only protects the egg from predation, but also absorbs water to maintain the humidity.



LARVAE pass through three developmental stages attaining a length of 10 to 11mm (2/5") at maturity. Larval development is fast in the temperature range 63-72°F and levels off at 81°F.

VLB overwinters as EGGS, and requires a chilling period of approximately five months. Eggs hatch around May when leaf buds open.

1st Instar



The development period from egg hatch to adult emergence lasts eight to ten weeks.

2nd Instar



3rd & 4th Instar



The matured LARVAE enter the soil to pupate from early to mid-June and emerge as adults in July. The pupal stage lasts for about 10 days.



Larvae damage

VLB completes only one generation a year.