

PINEAPPLE BEETLES

Pineapple beetles, also known as dried fruit beetles, are small, black beetles that breed in pineapples left unharvested in fields. Nearby communities are invaded by large numbers of these beetles whenever pineapples left in fields scheduled for replanting breeds them in abundance. Communities further from these infested fields may also be affected by windblown beetles during this period. Nuisance from pineapple beetles usually last for two weeks, but may be extended by rain that keeps rotting fruit sufficiently moist to prolong the breeding period.

LIFE CYCLE

Eggs laid on over-ripe pineapples hatch into worm-like larvae that feed and grow on the rotting fruit. Mature larvae leave the fruit and form pupae, or cocoons, to transform into adult beetles. Development from egg to adult takes approximately 15 days.



CONTROL METHODS

There is no effective method to prevent pineapple beetle nuisance: plowing of fields reduces, but does not eliminate breeding; removal of pineapples is too costly; and pesticide sprays are ineffective against larvae protected inside of pineapples. Preventing entry into homes by keeping screen doors closed and window screens repaired reduces annoyance during beetle infestations.

Beetles that gain entry into homes can be eliminated with aerosol insecticide sprays labeled for flying insects. Do not overspray; beetles are not killed as quickly as mosquitoes and flies, but they eventually die after being contacted by the spray.

CAUTION: *Certain pesticides and their solvents may cause respiratory irritation. Persons with respiratory diseases should consult their physicians before using any pesticide. IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW IF PESTICIDES ARE NOT APPLIED EXACTLY AS THE LABEL DIRECTS.*

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