

***Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (Colorado beetle) pest report¹**

Field	Detail
Pest species name	<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>
Pest species name Taxon (order, family)	Order: Coleoptera Family: <i>Chrysomelidae</i>
Pest common name	Colorado beetle
Country	UK (England)
Report status (<i>first, update number or final. Include date.</i>)	First
Host(s) present on	<i>Solanum tuberosum</i> (potato)
Host range (indicate if the host is major, wild-weed, alternate, experimental, or doubtful, if known)	Major host
Pest status (as per ISPM 8)²	Present: not widely distributed and under official control. Single localised outbreak.
Geographical distribution	Kent, Southeast England
Official control in place	Eradication
Summary (nature of the finding and phytosanitary measures taken)	An outbreak of Colorado beetle larvae has been confirmed in a single potato field in Kent. Containment and eradication measures are being applied, including the removal and destruction of infested plants and the application of a pesticide spray

¹ International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 17 Pest reporting

² International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 8 Determination of pest status in an area

	programme. A 1km survey is being carried out around where the finding was made.
Danger/risk posed	<p>Larvae and adults of the Colorado beetle feed on the foliage of potato plants and can completely strip plants of their leaves if they are left uncontrolled. In some countries, the resulting yield losses have been as high as 50%. Large economic losses (millions of dollars per year) have been recorded in the USA and China.</p> <p>Eggs, larvae and adults of the Colorado beetle are mainly associated with potato plants. Larvae, pupae and adults are also associated with seed and ware potatoes and associated soil. Due to the rigorous selection and testing process prior to import on seed potatoes, ware potatoes and any associated soil are more of a risk. The Colorado beetle can also “hitch-hike” on unregulated plants and produce such as leafy vegetables and salad material (that may be from nearby to infested potato fields, where beetles may overwinter or use for harbourage).</p> <p>There is a risk that the Colorado beetle could establish and spread in the UK.</p>
Report files	-
Website(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pest specific plant health response plan: Outbreaks of <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> (Colorado beetle) on potato crops - Colorado-beetle-CP-v2022.pdf (defra.gov.uk) • Pest Alert: Colorado potato beetle (<i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i>) - Pest-alert-Colorado-Potato-Beetle-update2.pdf (defra.gov.uk)

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identification of Colorado beetle <i>Leptinotarsa decemlineata</i> and insects frequently mistaken for it - <u>Pest-factsheet-Insects-mistaken-for-coloradobeetle.pdf</u> (defra.gov.uk) |
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