

Whitefringed Beetles

by Eric Day



Adult whitefringed beetle and leaf damage. *Clemson University - USDA Cooperative Extension Slide Series, Bugwood.org*

Description: Several species. Adults: Dark gray snout beetles, white hairs covering back, light band along the side of the body; 1/2 inch long. Larvae: Yellowish white, curved, legless, fleshy. Up to 1/2 inch long.

Common host plant(s): Potato, turnip, peanut, cabbage, collards, sweet corn, strawberry, and blackberry.

Damage: Larvae feed on roots and tubers of potato and turnip.

Distribution: Southeastern United States; infestations localized. White fringed beetle is no longer regulated by the Virginia Department of Agriculture.

Cultural Control: Clean cultivation should serve as an effective aid in managing white-fringed beetles. Plant oats or other small grains in the infested soil as this insect does not do well on this crop. Follow a rotation in which summer legumes are only planted in the area every three or four years.

Organic/Biological Control: No organic/biological control for white-fringed beetles is known at this time.

Chemical Control: Work a granular insecticide into the soil at planting time. Or, for control of adults, spray foliage with insecticide registered for use on the host plant in need of protection.