

# Invasive Insect Species

## Check your Snowball Bush!

**Viburnum Leaf Beetle, *Pyrrhalta virburni***

**Origin:** Europe

**Eggs:**

- laying starts in July, eggs overwinter and start to hatch in early to mid-May
- eggs are laid in straight rows on the under surface at the ends of new twigs
- egg caps are dark brown and raised



**Larvae: this is the most destructive stage**

- range from blackish to greenish-yellow in color with a black head, are up to 10 mm long
- **found on the undersides of leaves** feeding between the leaf veins, **skeletonize leaves**
- feeding takes place from May to mid-June



**Pupa:**

- mature larvae crawl to ground and pupate in the soil in mid-June

**Beetles: – destructive stage**

- adult beetles emerge in late June
- beetles are brown, 4.5-6.5 mm long
- beetles feed until fall, causing irregular holes in leaves



**Food Preference:**

- only feeds on Viburnum species
- Highbush cranberry (*V. trifolium*), Wild raisin (*V. cassinoides*), Hobblebush (*V. lantanooides*), *V. alnifolium*), Snowball bush (*V. opulus*)

**Management:**

- the most effective control method is **pruning the infested twig tips**. This is easiest to do after leaf drop as the egg caps are more visible.
- encourage beneficial insects such as lady beetles.
- research is being done on applying a sticky coating to stems to prevent larvae reaching the soil to pupate.

**Why do we care?**

Damage is unsightly  
Continued defoliation affects the health of the shrub



For more information contact: The Parks and Recreation Department at 368-1025  
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