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## G73-61 Pale Striped Flea Beetle In Sugarbeets and Beans (Revised March 1979)

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Hagen, Arthur F., "G73-61 Pale Striped Flea Beetle In Sugarbeets and Beans (Revised March 1979)" (1973). *Historical Materials from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension*. 1656.  
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## Pale Striped Flea Beetle In Sugarbeets and Beans

G 73-61  
(Revised March 1979)

Arthur F. Hagen, Extension Entomologist

Only small areas of western Nebraska appear to be troubled by this insect at present, but it appears to be infesting larger areas of sugarbeets each year.

### Life History

The insect overwinters in the soil in the egg stage or as partially grown larvae. The white larvae with dark heads feed on young beet plants in April and early May. The mature larvae are 1/4 to 3/8 inch (.6 to .95 cm) long. They form small earthen cells and pupate. The adults, about 1/8 inch (.3 cm) long, emerge in June and migrate to bean or alfalfa fields to feed. They vary in color but usually have two yellowish stripes on the back.

### Damage

Usually the first evidence of this insect in sugarbeets is areas of dead or dying plants. Larvae eat the underground stems, killing the young beet plants, or enter the seeds and destroy germination. The adults usually feed on bean plants adjacent to the sugarbeet fields. Shot-hole appearance in the leaves of the young plants is evidence of injury. At times there may be damage to the roots of bean plants. There appears to be only one generation a year.

### Control

It is desirable not to plant sugarbeets in a field that had flea beetle injured dry beans the previous year, because adults laid eggs in the field and larvae are present when the sugarbeets are planted. Chemicals to control adults in bean fields are

carbaryl (Sevin) 80 SP at 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds per acre (1.4 to 1.7 kg/ha). To control the larvae in beet fields, a preplanting treatment should be broadcast or banded and incorporated. The following chemicals can be used.

Insecticide	Amount per acre (per hectare)	Restrictions
Diazinon 14G	21 pounds (23.6 kg)	Broadcast on soil and
Diazinon AG 500	1 quart (2.4 l)	incorporate into the upper 6 inches (15 cm) 1 week before planting.
Thimet 10G (phorate)	10 pounds (11.25 kg)	Apply 7 to 8 inches (18 to 20
DiSyston 10G (disulfoton)	10 pounds (11.25 kg)	cm) as band in row but not in contact with seed. Use only in western Nebraska.

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Revised March 1979, 7,500