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## EC1540 Potato Insect Control with D D T

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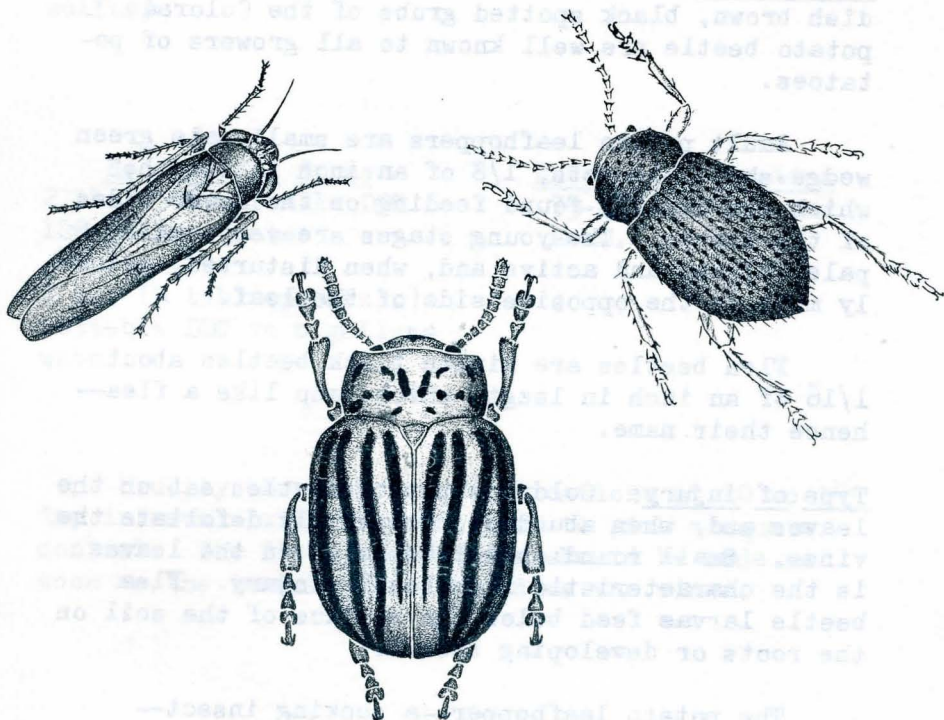
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# Potato Insect Control With DDT



Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics  
University of Nebraska College of Agriculture, and the United States  
Department of Agriculture cooperating, W. H. Brokaw, Director, Lincoln.

POTATO INSECT CONTROL WITH DDT

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The insects most commonly found damaging potatoes in Nebraska are the Colorado potato beetles, the potato leafhoppers, and flea beetles.

Description: Both the striped adult and the reddish brown, black spotted grubs of the Colorado potato beetle are well known to all growers of potatoes.

Adult potato leafhoppers are small pale green wedge-shaped insects,  $1/8$  of an inch in length, which are usually found feeding on the lower sides of the leaves. The young stages are very small, pale colored and active and, when disturbed, quickly move to the opposite side of the leaf.

Flea beetles are minute black beetles about  $1/16$  of an inch in length which jump like a flea--hence their name.

Type of injury: Colorado potato beetles eat on the leaves and, when abundant, completely defoliate the vines. Small round shot-like holes on the leaves is the characteristic flea beetle injury. Flea beetle larvae feed below the surface of the soil on the roots or developing tubers.

The potato leafhopper--a sucking insect--causes a condition known as hopper-burn. The tips of the leaves turn yellow, then brown. In case of heavy infestation, plants appear as if scorched by fire or drouth.

Control: DDT is effective against all the major potato insects in Nebraska. Either a DDT dust or spray will control Colorado potato beetles, leafhoppers, flea beetles and potato psyllids if applied thoroughly and carefully to both surfaces of the leaves.

<u>Recommended Dust</u>	<u>Rate of Application</u>
3% DDT in sulfur (pyrophyllite or talc may be substituted for sulfur)	25 to 35 lbs. per acre.

<u>Recommended Spray</u>	<u>Rate of Application</u>
2 lbs. 50% wettable DDT to 100 gallons water	75-125 gallons per acre.
or	
2 oz. (5 tablespoonfuls) wettable DDT to 6 gallons water.	

Usually three or four applications at 10 to 14 day intervals will be sufficient to give adequate control. The first application should be made as soon as the insects are noticed on the vines.