

# BEWARE!



## ELM LEAF BEETLE: THE DEFOLIATOR!

### Description

*Galerucella luteola* is a little elm leaf defoliating beetle native of Italy. The insect population dynamics vary recurrently so, during particularly mild winters, the insect populations may increase so considerably to cause severe defoliations and adult beetles harm humans plaguing their houses' when seeking for a winter shelter.

### Symptoms and damages

Adults feed on leaves forming irregular little holes between the mayor veins whereas the larvae eat the entire leaf tissue away except for the nerves. In the event of heavily increased infestations, the crown of the infested plant looks browned and leaves fall down prematurely. In case of yearly repeated attacks the weakened plants become more sensitive to the vector insects of the fungus *Graphium ulmi*, which is an elm's life-threatening disease. The pest is not harmful to humans or animals.

### Host plants

*Galerucella luteola* develops mainly on the siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) and on the wych elm (*Ulmus minor*).

### What's in case of suspected occurrence?

In case of suspected symptoms do **immediately** inform the Regional Plant Protection Organization:

1. contact the closest office of the Regional Plant Protection Organization by e-mail or telephone (providing name, surname, address, telephone number, e-mail and exact detection site);
2. if possible, do catch the lepidoptera and conserve it soaked in alcohol in a closed vial;
3. if possible, to be sure not to have confused it with other insects, do send a photograph to [fit@assam.marche.it](mailto:fit@assam.marche.it);
4. it is forbidden to transport **alive insects** or **infested plants**.

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