

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Lily Leaf Beetle Larval Collections 2018

If you grow lilies in the Northeast, and have lily leaf beetles feeding on them, the University of Rhode Island would like your help. Lily growers in New England are very familiar with the beautiful scarlet red beetles (Fig. 1), and their not-so-beautiful larvae (Fig. 2), that defoliate their lilies. The University of Rhode Island (URI) Biological Control Lab is researching natural enemies of the lily leaf beetle. Small parasitic insects were established in lily plots in Cumberland, RI, Wellesley, MA, and other locations in New England. URI researchers hope that the insects will disperse naturally from these release sites, eventually reducing problems with the lily leaf beetle throughout New England and the Northeast.

URI would like to track these parasitic insects by collecting the large larvae covered with excrement (brown blobs) that you find on your lilies. We will dissect the larvae to look for the parasitic insects, or rear them to determine which are parasitized. If you have larvae in your yard, and wouldn't mind sending them to URI please use the following instructions to send them to Lisa Tewksbury at the URI Department of Plant Sciences or contact her for more information.

Mailing instructions: Please put about 10-20 of the largest larvae you can find (preferably fourth instars: Fig. 2), a piece of paper towel, and some **lily leaves** into a rigid container with a lid. Please do not add any water; the lily leaves will provide some moisture. Two suggestions for good sturdy containers are cottage cheese or yogurt containers. **Label the lid with your name, complete address, and the date that you collected the larvae. Please tape the container closed so that the larvae don't escape!** Include your email address and I will send you my results. You can also check our web site for updates: web.uri.edu/biocontrol/

Address:

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Fig. 1: Adult lily leaf beetle



Fig. 2: The largest stage of larvae (fourth instar)