

# ATTENTION LILY GROWERS

If you grow Asiatic lilies in Eastern MA or RI, and have lily leaf beetles feeding on them, the University of Rhode Island would like your help gathering data during the 2008 season for their research on biological control of this pest.

## Lily Leaf Beetle Larval Collection Program 2008

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 released and established in lily plots in Wellesley, MA and in Cumberland, RI several years ago. URI researchers are asking for your assistance in gathering larval samples so they may track how far the parasitic insects have dispersed naturally from their release sites. The hope is that these beneficial insects will eventually reduce problems with the lily leaf beetle throughout New England.



Fig. 1. Adult lily leaf beetle



Fig. 2. Largest stage of larvae (fourth instar)

URI can track these parasitic insects by evaluating the large larvae covered with excrement that you find on your lilies. They will dissect the larvae to look for the parasitic insects. 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.

**Sample instructions:** Please put about 10-20 of the largest larvae you can find (preferably fourth instars: Fig. 2), 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 container closed so that the larvae don't escape!**

### Mailing address:

Lisa Tewksbury, Dept. of Plant Sciences, 9 E. Alumni Ave. Suite 7,  
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881  
Phone: (401) 874-2750 email: [lisat@uri.edu](mailto:lisat@uri.edu)

### Sample collection location:

Samples may also be dropped off at **Weston Nurseries Garden Center**, 93 E. Main St. (Rte. 135), Hopkinton, MA 01748 (tel: 508-293-8004) for shipment to Lisa Tewksbury at URI.