Tales from the Field: Update for Greenhouse Growers, June 7, 2013
Tortoise Beetles
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Hopefully, your customers have now planted their tomato plants in their garden. Here’s a pest you may get questions on.

**Tortoise Beetles**

Tortoise beetles may be feeding on tomatoes, eggplants and potatoes. This beetle makes small holes in the foliage, but doesn’t cause serious injury so does not need to be controlled.

![Image of tortoise beetles on tomato transplants](image)

**Figure 1: Tortoise beetles on tomato transplants, photo L. Pundt**

**Golden Tortoise Beetles** (also known as “gold bugs”) feeds on plants in the morning glory family such as sweet potato vine and morning glory, producing small holes on the leaves. Damage is not serious, but home gardeners may ask what is causing this damage. There is only one generation a year, so control is not necessary.
Figure 2: Golden Tortoise Beetle Adult, Photo L. Pundt