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Bug of the month ***Hylobius Transversovittatus***



Above: Purple Loosetrife

Purple loosestrife is a Eurasian invader with beautiful magenta flowers, making it a prized ornamental but an ecological disaster for the wetlands and marshes where it has become a dominant weed.

Since purple loosestrife is a perennial it has thick roots; perfect food for *Hylobius transversovittatus* a large root feeding weevil used to control the plant.



Above: *Hylobius transversovittatus*

The roots are not quite the perfect food, as it turns out. At the Insectary, we raise *Hylobius* on an artificial diet made up mostly of soy flour and cellulose which enables them to grow 5-10 times faster than they do on roots!



Above: These bugs are raised on an artificial diet of soy flour and cellulose