

## Predators: Ground Beetles



See also: <http://www.potatoes.com/research.cfm>

### Common Ground Beetles in Potatoes



*Bembidion* species.  
This one is about 3/4  
as large as the one to  
the right.



*Bembidion* species usually  
have golden markings.



*Harpalus* species -- these beetles  
often have orange-ish  
legs. They are slightly  
bigger than *Amara*,  
pictured below.



*Bembidion* species on  
penny for size reference.



*Amara* species. These beetles  
are sometimes very shiny  
or appear metallic.



*Amara* species on penny  
for size reference.

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### Ground Beetle Biology

1. "Ground beetle" is the common name used for members of the family Carabidae.
2. As the name implies, ground beetles spend most of their time on the ground. They feed primarily on other insects.
3. In potatoes, ground beetles can be very common under the canopy. They feed on insects that fall from the canopy or that are living in the decomposing leaves.
4. *Bembidion* beetles (below and reverse) are commonly seen scurrying along open patches of soil during the day. They can be very abundant.
5. Other species in the genera *Harpalus* and *Amara* (reverse) can also be common, especially in organic fields or conventional fields with a soft insecticide program.
6. Larvae of ground beetles live in the soil and are predators of soil dwelling arthropods. They likely feed on larvae and pupae of pest insects such as "worms" (moth larvae) and tuberworm.



*Bembidion* beetle between potato rows.

### Similar Beetles



Darkling beetles (left) walk about on the ground and are often confused with ground beetles. They are mostly scavengers as adults.



Rove beetles (above) can also be common under the potato canopy. These are also predators.