

## Protect Your Plants & Lawns



Japanese beetles are one of gardens most hated pests.

Immature stages of Japanese beetle are larvae or grubs that live in the soil and feed on the roots of grasses and other plants. Large areas of lawns may be damaged by grubs or other animals (moles, skunks, crows, etc.) that feed on grubs. A full-grown grub is about 1 inch in length and it is C-shaped with a white body and a brown head.

The adult Japanese beetle is conspicuously colored in copper with shiny green. It is about 1/2 inch in length and broadly oval.



### INJURY

Adult beetles feed on flowers and foliage of many deciduous trees and shrubs, as well as many herbaceous plants.

They skeletonize leaves, resulting in only midribs and veins. Large trees may be defoliated.

### LIFE HISTORY

The life cycle of a Japanese beetle requires one year.

They overwinter as grubs about 3 to 6 inches below the soil surface.

Grubs change to the pupal stage in May or June, and adults emerge from June to August.

The adult female deposits eggs in the soil during the summer.

Pheromone/floral lure traps indicate the presence and relative numbers of adult Japanese beetles. Their control value is questionable.

### CONTROL

Japanese beetle grubs and other species of white grubs, that feed on the roots of turfgrass, are most effectively controlled from mid-August to mid-September.

It is important to water in the insecticide, as quickly as possible, from the lawn surface to the root zone where grubs are found. Therefore, follow the insecticide application with at least 1/2 inch of irrigation, or apply the insecticide prior to a predicted rainfall.

If irrigation is used (in-ground watering or movable lawn sprinkler), place a pan in the area being watered and measure the water level to be sure at least 1/2 inch of water has been applied.

If there is a layer of thatch, and the turfgrass has not been irrigated at regular levels, or if there has been no rainfall for one week or longer, irrigate with 1.4 inch of water before applying the insecticide. Irrigate with 1/2" of water after the insecticide treatment.

If it becomes necessary to apply a grub control insecticide in the spring, treatments should be made during March or April. Follow the procedure outlined for August and September.

Weather permitting, milky spore can be applied at any time of the year. Remember milky spore is quite specific for only Japanese beetle grubs.

### INSECTICIDES

Suitable insecticides for grub control are: Dylox and Merit.\*

**READ AND FOLLOW ALL DIRECTIONS ON THE LABEL.**

To protect foliage from feeding injury by adult beetles, apply methoxychlor, Sevin, or rotenone. Several spray applications at weekly intervals may be required.

**ASK AT THE GARDEN CENTER FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE PRODUCTS AND APPLICATIONS.**



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