



Japanese Beetles

Japanese beetles are damaging pests to many fruit trees and bushes, and vegetables such as corn, basil, peppers, beans, and rhubarb. Adult beetles feed on the plant's leaves, flowers, and fruit. Most plants can tolerate moderate damage, but severe infestations can lead to reduced plant growth and yield.

Appearance

Adults have shiny green heads and copper colored bodies about 1/2" in length.

Small eggs are laid in the soil during the summer and hatch into grub larvae which feed on the plant's roots. Larvae are white colored with a tan head about 1" long.

Larvae will overwinter in the soil and emerge as adults the following summer.

Prevention and Control

- Be alert for leaf damage and infestations beginning in early summer.
- Handpick and dispose of adults feeding on leaves.
- Avoid using commercial baited traps as they will attract more beetles.
- Use floating row covers over plants that are vulnerable during the summer.
- *Bacillus thuringiensis* applied to the leaves and soil affects both adult beetles and larvae.
- Neem oil sprayed on leaves will prevent adults from feeding.

