

Japanese Beetle

Japanese beetles are metallic green insects with copper-brown wings. Japanese beetles feed on the leaves of plants, seldom killing the plant. Extreme damage can interfere with photosynthesis.

Signs & Symptoms

- Skeletonized leaves
- Roses, grapes, rose of Sharon, clethra, crape myrtle, crabapple, elm, linden, Japanese maple, sycamore, and cherry are some of the most susceptible plants to Japanese beetle damage.

Life Cycle

- The beetles overwinter as a partially grown grub in the soil below the frost line
- Adults emerge between May and July - this depends on their geographic location
- Adults live and feed for 30-45 days

Management

- Handpick and drop in a container of soapy water
- Insecticides - apply in two applications, 3-4 days apart. Every 5-10 days throughout their feeding stage if shrubs are heavily infested.
- Control grubs by applying a granular herbicide to the grass in June or July, or about 20 days before adults lay their eggs.

Pheromone traps - please note that pheromone traps attract additional beetles and can do more harm than good if susceptible plants are in their path. These are commonly sold, but we do not recommend their use.

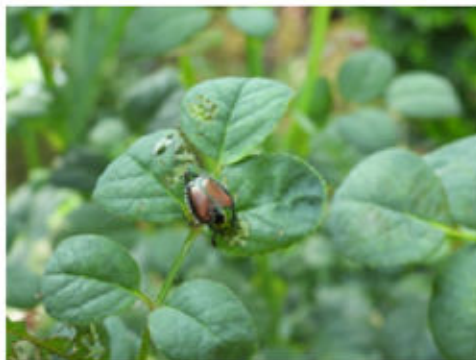


Photo Missouri Botanical Garden