

Stop

The Invasion



Photographs courtesy of Emmy Engasser, Wichita State University, Bugwood.org and Kansas Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org

Japanese Beetle

Popillia japonica

Report Sightings

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What are they?

Japanese beetles are a garden pest native to northern Japan. The adults eat the leaves of plants while the larvae attack the roots, particularly the roots of grasses.

Are they here yet?

No, but they are established in the eastern United States. Japanese beetles are also constantly transported into the Pacific Northwest on cargo planes, trucks, and in household goods. Despite this, they haven't yet become established in Washington. Infestations have occurred in Idaho and Oregon, and both states have implemented costly eradication programs in response.

Why should I care?

Japanese beetles attack hundreds of different species of plants, including native species and popular gardening and landscaping plants. An infestation can cause severe damage to the foliage of plants, and plants that were stressed before an infestation may not survive.

What should I do if I find one?

Report a sighting online at www.invasivespecies.wa.gov/report.shtml.

How can we stop them?

Halt their spread by making sure you're not transporting the adults or grubs in plants or soil. Though the adults can disperse by flying, transportation by humans is their fastest way of invading new areas.



Photograph courtesy of Daren Mueller, Iowa State University, Bugwood.org

What are their characteristics?

- Adults are metallic green and copper, about 3/8 inch long, with a classic “scarab” beetle shape.
- Adults have several small white fuzzy spots along the edge of their abdomens below each wing.
- Larvae are nondescript white grubs found in the soil, and look very much like many native and other exotic species. Grubs are best identified by an experienced entomologist.

How do I distinguish them from native species?

There are a few species of green adult scarabs that look like Japanese beetle, and many kinds of grubs. If you have a suspect beetle please submit it to the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Where do I get more information?

- University of Wisconsin Extension: hort.uwex.edu/articles/japanese-beetle
- University of Kentucky Entomology: entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef451
- University of Minnesota Extension: www.extension.umn.edu/garden/insects/find/japanese-beetles/

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