

Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) adults are voracious feeders on a wide range of fruit plants, devouring foliage, blossoms and fruit. The grub feeds on plant roots. For region-specific information, please contact your local Giving Grove partner.



### Appearance:

- The Japanese beetle adult is an insect that has a metallic green hard body with coppery brown wings.
- The larva is a white, legless grub that inhabits the soil.
- They feed on over 300 different plant species. Skeletonized leaves are a very distinct indicator of Japanese Beetles.

### Damage:

- Japanese beetle adults feed on leaves, blossoms and fruit; leaves are skeletonized
- Larvae feed on plant roots
- Larvae spend 11 months in the ground and Adults emerge from June–August.

### Timing:

- The larvae (also called grubs) overwinter in the soil. The grubs feed on grass roots until the cold weather sets in and return to the surface in the springtime.
- Japanese beetle adults emerge from the soil in mid-summer, and complete their life cycles by late summer.

### Treatment:

- First thing in the morning, when beetles are slow, have a bucket of soapy water beneath the foliage and knock the beetles into the bucket.
- Neem oil application to disrupt feeding
- Pheromone traps: These types of traps may attract more beetles than they actually catch if not used properly. We recommend the use of a mass trap. Visit our YouTube channel for detailed instructions to build a mass trap.
- Kaolin clay can protect crops.
- Milky spore, a bacteria, applied to the soil in Sept–Oct or April–May, acts as a grub control.

Sources: Michael Phillips, "The Holistic Orchard", USDA, Missouri Botanical Garden, Michigan State University Extension, and Patrick L. Byers, Horticulture Specialist

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