

Japanese Beetle

An Insect That Causes Damage To Leaves, Flowers, And Turf

Japanese beetles feed on the leaves and flowers of many types of trees, shrubs and plants. Linden, birch, apple, rose bushes, grape vines and cotoneaster are most susceptible to Japanese beetle feeding. Japanese beetle activity is dramatic and alarming when it is noticed; yet the effects seldom cause serious harm to the health of infested trees or shrubs.

Infested Trees Require Treated For Control

Topical or systemic insecticide treatment can limit the damage from feeding by Japanese beetles. In recent seasons we have adjusted our treatments to minimize or eliminate off-target exposure of pollinating insects to our treatments. Current regulations prohibit use of many pesticides on flowering trees and shrubs when bees could forage on them. A newer product called Acelepryn® controls Japanese beetle with very low toxicity to birds, fish and bees. Use of Acelepryn® allows for treatment of flowering trees and shrubs attacked by Japanese beetles.

What To Look For

- Adult beetles feeding on the foliage of many trees causing damage that looks like windows in the leaves.
- Extensive feeding damage makes a dull, brown appearance in the crown.
- Japanese beetles feed and congregate in large numbers on flowers of many species, including roses.

Life Cycle

- Adult beetles lay eggs in July and their larvae feed on grass roots in turf from August through June.
- Larvae emerge from the soil as adults and feed on the leaves and flowers of plants from July through August.
- Adult beetles leave a pheromone on attacked leaves that recruit additional beetles to the tree.

Treatment and Prevention

- Place cloth or other barrier around flowers to prevent feeding damage.
- Pick damaged leaves off of small trees to reduce further attacks.
- Beetles can be hand-picked into a jar of soapy water to kill them.
- Plant less preferred shrubs and tree species in your landscape.
- Don't Use Traps – these attract more Japanese beetles to your yard than would have showed up without them.



Japanese beetle leaf damage.



Japanese beetle grub damage to lawn.



Japanese beetle damage to flowers.

Important Note: What to Expect

Treatments do not repel Japanese beetles from your landscape. Beetles will still show up after we treat your trees and shrubs. Control of the beetles occurs as they ingest small amounts of foliage from treated trees and shrubs. Comparison of treated versus untreated trees shows a marked difference in the amount of damage done by Japanese beetle feeding.



Untreated linden tree on left. Treated linden tree on right.