

Japanese Beetles

What are Japanese Beetles?

Native to Japan, they were first documented in the United States in 1919 and have since spread across the country. Japanese beetles are small pests that carry a big threat. They will feed on almost any type of plant.



How to Identify Japanese Beetles:

- They are ½ inch in length
- Metallic blue-green with tan wings, and small white hairs lining each side of the abdomen.
- Eggs will be laid in the soil, and offspring are tiny white grubs that will surface in June as beetles.
- They attack plants in groups which is why damage is usually so severe.

How to get rid of Japanese Beetles:

- Try to select plants that Japanese Beetles will not be attracted to (See List Below)
- In the grub season (late spring) spray the lawn with 2 tablespoons of liquid dishwashing soap diluted in 1 gallon of water per 1,000 square feet.
 - This will force the grubs to surface, leaving them susceptible to being eaten by predators (birds)
 - Spray once a week until no more grubs surface
- The most effective way of getting rid of these pests is unfortunately hand picking them. It is time consuming but can be very effective.
- Another option is purchasing parasitic nematodes (we carry a number of brands) and drench the soil around the area where you have the problem.
- Lastly, you can place a drop cloth down around the plants and in the early morning when they're most active, shake them off of the drop cloth and into a soapy bucket.

Plants Relatively Free of Feeding from Japanese Beetles

Common Name	Common Name Cont.	Common Name Cont.
Boxelder	White ash	White poplar
Red maple	Green ash	Common pear
Silver maple	Holly (all species)	White oak
Boxwood	Butternut	Scarlet oak
Shagbark hickory	Tuliptree	Red oak
Flowering dogwood	American Sweetgum	Black oak
Persimmon	Magnolia (all species)	American elder
Euonymus (all species)	Red mulberry	Common lilac