



## Japanese beetle

*Popillia japonica*

Order Coleoptera, Family Scarabaeidae; scarab beetles  
Introduced pest

**Host plants:** Mountainash, gray birch, cottonwood, American and Siberian elms, linden, Japanese and Norway maple, roses, and sycamore, and over three hundred other species of deciduous trees

**Description:** Adult beetles are almost 12 mm long, with a metallic green, broadly oval body, dark green legs, and copper colored wing covers with 5 hair-like tufts along the wing margin.

**Life history:** Pupation occurs in spring and adults begin to emerge from late June through early August. The beetles are gregarious and often feed in large groups, usually on tender, young leaves. Eggs are deposited in the soil. There is one generation a year.

**Overwintering:** Grubs in the soil.

**Damage symptoms:** Adults prefer to feed on tender new leaves. Leaves may be completely skeletonized. Heavy infestations can lead to defoliation. Grubs feed on grass roots.

**Monitoring:** Adults emerge when Greenspire littleleaf linden is in full bloom in mid to late June (Herms). Look for adults active on hosts from June through late July.

**Cultural control:** Remove first beetles into a bucket of soapy water. Elimination of early beetles may slow recruitment of other beetles. Japanese beetle traps often attract more beetles to the landscape.

**Chemical control:** Spray when beetles begin to damage plants; retreat as necessary.

**Biological control:** Adults are not managed by biological control. *Tiphia vernalis*, a tipid wasp and *Istocheta*, tachinid fly, have been introduced to manage grubs.

**Plant mortality risk:** Low

**Biorational pesticides:** None

**Conventional pesticides:** adults: acephate, bifenthrin, carbaryl, chlorpyrifos (nursery only), cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, imidacloprid, lambda-cyhalothrin, malathion, permethrin; for grub control see Turf Pests Section.



Skeletonizing caused by Japanese beetle adults. (156)  
Photo: unknown



Japanese beetle adults feed on leaves and fruits of more than 300 species of plants. (15X)  
Photo: Ronald S. Kelley, The Bugwood Network, University of Georgia



Japanese beetle adult and skeletonized crab apple leaves. (15X)  
Photo: Cliff Sadof



## Japanese beetle (continued)



Japanese beetle grubs. (157)

Photo: Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service