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Japanese beetle

***Popillia japonica* (Newman)**

Japanese beetles (JB) were first reported in the U.S. in 1916 in New Jersey. It now occurs from Maine to Georgia and westward into Kentucky, Illinois, Michigan and Missouri. Spot infestations have been reported in other states and in Canada. JB adults feed on over 275 plant species including: shade and fruit trees, ornamenatal shrubs, small fruits, vegetables, grasses, weeds, and some row crops. Damaged leaves may be skeletonized or they may be almost entirely defoliated. The grubs can be serious pests of lawns, other grasses and nursery stock.

The adult beetle is oval and about 10 mm. (~0.4 inches) long with a bright metallic green body, dark green legs, and coppery brown wing covers (elytra). There are two tufts of white hairs behind the wing covers and five patches of white hairs on each side. The wing covers are shorter than the insects abdomen. Full grown larvae are about 25 mm.(~ 1 in.) long and are typically grub-shaped.

There is only one generation per year. The winter is spent in the larval stage in the soil. Pupation occurs in early spring, and the adults emerge from late May to July depending upon location. Adults usually feed gregariously and are often found feeding in masses on certain plants while others nearby are devoid of beetles. Disease pathogens often destroy large numbers of larvae. The adults are highly mobile, frequently reinvading favored hosts after a pesticide application, thereby leading the homeowner/manager to believe that controls were ineffective.

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