



Tips for Managing Japanese Beetles

Description

- **Adult:** Slightly less than 1/2 inch long; shiny, metallic-green body; bronze-colored outer wings; six small tufts of white hair along the sides and back of its body under the edges of its wings.
- **Grub (larva):** About one inch long when fully grown; white, C-shaped.



Prevention

- Choose plants wisely. Plant dogwood, red oak, ash, magnolia, juniper, spruce, lilac, clematis, and forsythia. Avoid roses, grapes, plum, linden, crab apple, Japanese maple, and other JB favorites.
- Cover up - Before adults show up (about late June to early July), put floating row cover (e.g. Remay® or Typar®) or cheesecloth over plants or shrubs. Remove covers during flowering to allow for pollination.

Management

- Pick or knock beetles off into a bucket of soapy water. Leave any that have a small white egg glued to its back to build up populations of the beneficial ‘winsome fly’ parasite.
- Search for grubs, during late summer to early fall, in patches of dying grass that easily pull up or in areas torn up by skunks or birds. Grubs live in the soil, feeding on grass roots.



- **Control grubs.** Turn over several pieces of sod with a shovel. If there are 10 or more grubs/ft² in damaged lawn, consider applying the beneficial nematode, *Heteroditis bacteriophora*, in late summer into early fall. (http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/nematodes/turfgrass_pest_management.htm for guidelines and retailers).
- **Skip the traps.** Avoid using traps unless you can hang them far away (50 ft or more) from susceptible plants. The lures are highly attractive to JB but many beetles elude capture.

Least Risk Pesticides

When beetles arrive apply neem (e.g. Bioneem®, Neemix®, Azatin®), pyrethrins (e.g. Pyganic®), or Kaolin clay (Surround®) to repel beetles. (*No product endorsement is implied.*)

Further Management Options

Contact the Cooperative Extension Pest Management Office (1-800-287-0279), your county Extension office, or visit <http://www.gotpests.org/>.

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<http://www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/ipmcouncil>

*Promoting least risk pest control for
a greener environment.*

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