

HOME GROUNDS FACT SHEET

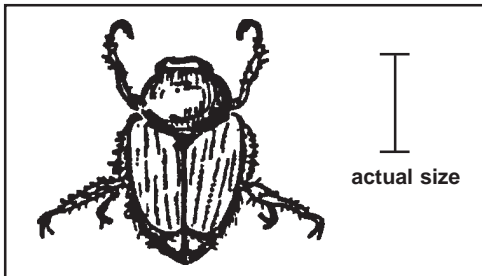


Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Nassau County



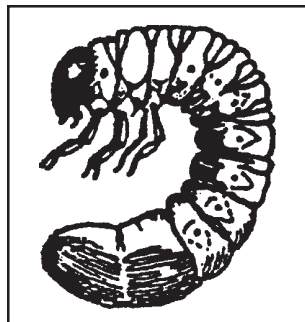
Horticulture Center
Demonstration & Community Gardens
at East Meadow Farm
832 Merrick Avenue
East Meadow, NY 11554
Phone: 516-565-5265

Japanese Beetle



The Japanese beetle is about 1/2" long with a shiny metallic green head and thorax and coppery brown wing covers. The larvae, or grubs, are grayish-white with a brownish head, about 1/2" long with three pairs of legs on the forepart of the body. The grub lies in a curled position.

The adult beetles feed on leaves, flowers or fruits of many kinds of plants including many ornamentals. They eat the tissue between the veins of the leaves leaving only a skeleton of the leaf. The beetles are social and prefer to feed in groups. European chafers, Oriental, Asiatic garden beetles and some others produce similar damage to plants and have the same type of life cycle. These pests have less spectacular coloration causing them to be overlooked by the casual observer. The grub is a serious pest of turf, feeding on the grass roots from August to September. Injury usually shows up in sunny lawn areas as a thinning of grass. The grass may be partly or completely killed and the turf so loosened that it can be rolled up like a rug.



The adult beetles lay eggs during July and August. In about twelve days the eggs hatch into small grayish-white grubs which begin feeding immediately on the grass roots until November. The adult beetles emerge the following June and July at which time they feed on the foliage of ornamentals. During the next five weeks of feeding they intermittently deposit eggs about 20 times, providing up to 600 offspring.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Considerations

IPM is a common sense approach to pest control and plant care. It employs a number of measures to prevent, control or reduce plant problems. These include using resistant plant varieties, proper plant selection and placement, good aftercare and biological and/or mechanical controls.

As a last resort, after all other remedies have been explored, a pesticide* that is least toxic to people and natural predators, can be considered. Prior to using any pesticides, plants should always be monitored for the degree of infestation and a sensible control measure considered.

* A pesticide is a substance that kills, or attempts to kill, a particular pest, e.g. **insecticide**, **fungicide**, **herbicide**, etc.

Control

The adult beetles may be hand picked from the plant and destroyed. Chemical pesticides may be available. If you choose to use a chemical pesticide, contact your local Cooperative Extension office for specific recommendations.

For control of grubs, see Home Grounds Fact Sheet C-2-17, Turfgrass Grubs.

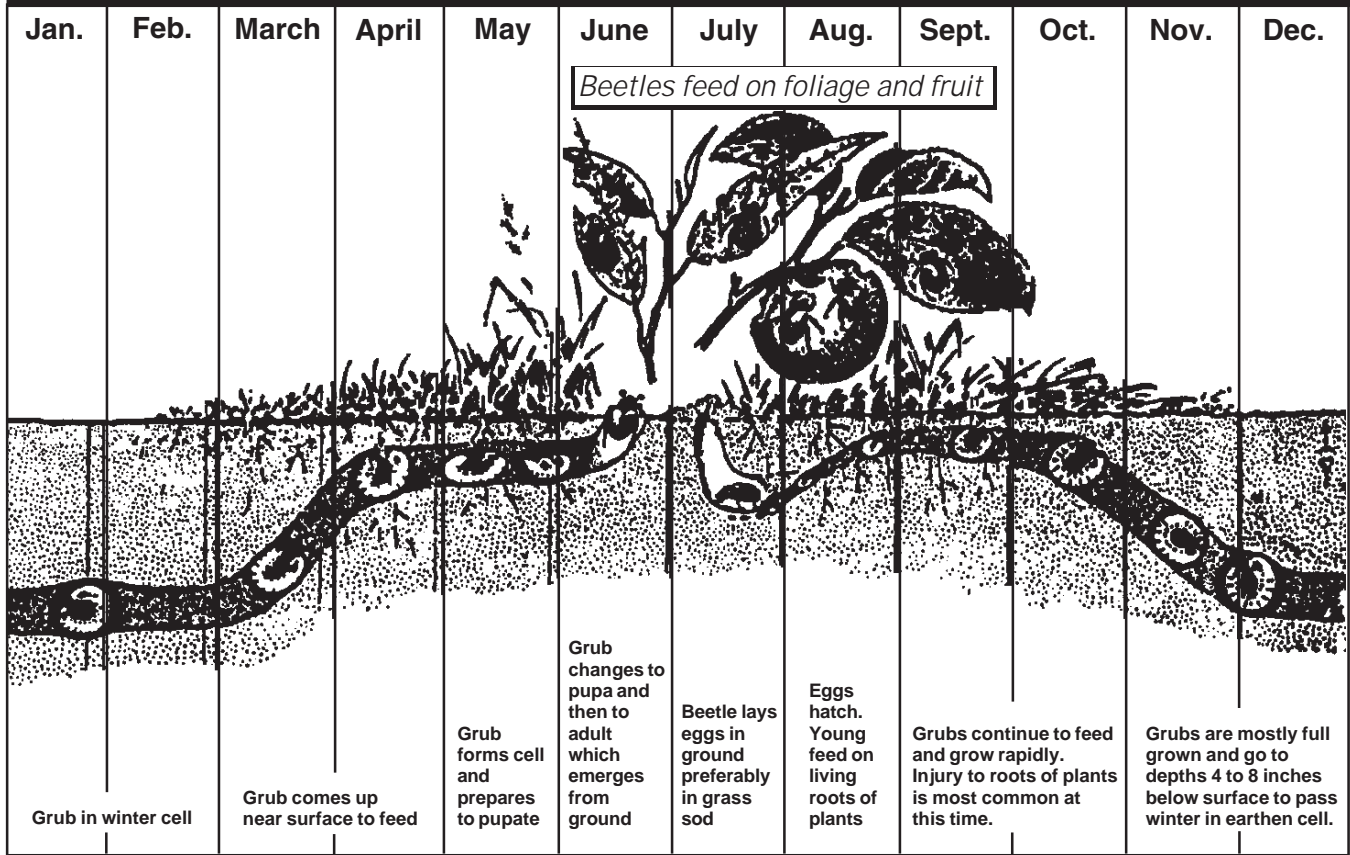
E-1-15 DWM-AAH:cms reviewed RT 1/03

-continued-

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Cornell Cooperative Extension in Nassau County provides equal program and employment opportunities.

SEASONAL LIFE CYCLE OF THE JAPANESE BEETLE



WHENEVER YOU USE A PESTICIDE, ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND FOLLOW THE MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS.

"This publication contains pesticide recommendations. Changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly and human errors are still possible. Some materials mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. All pesticides distributed, sold or applied in New York State must be registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Questions concerning the legality and/or registration status for pesticide use in New York State should be directed to the appropriate Cornell Cooperative Extension specialist or your regional DEC office (631) 444-0341. Read the label before applying any pesticide. Cornell Cooperative Extension and its employees assume no liability for the effectiveness or results of any chemicals for pesticide usage. No endorsement of products is made or implied."