

**This is an adult Japanese beetle. Maybe you've seen them flying around or eating your plants lately!**

You can recognize them by a few noticeable traits:

- They are about 7/16th of an inch long
- They are shiny with an emerald green and copper color
- You can also find white patches of hair on the sides of their body

Japanese beetle adults are around from June till August



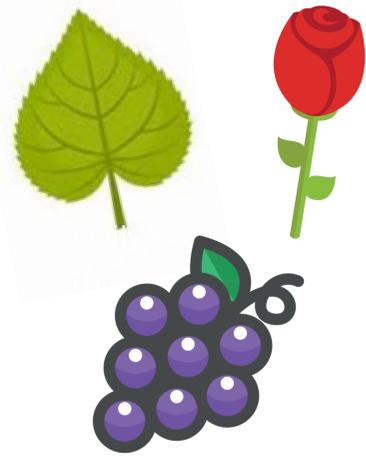
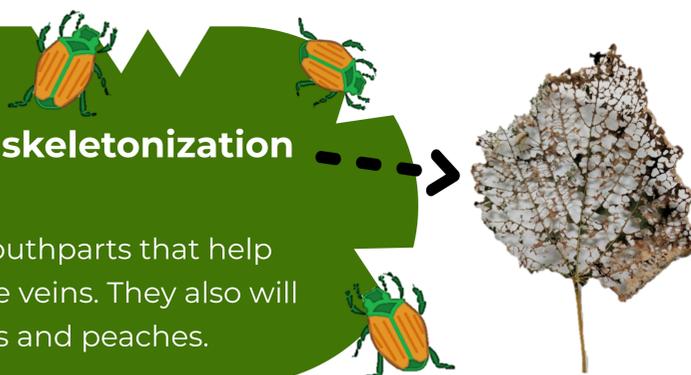
Before they emerge as adults, they spend a lot of time as grubs in the soil. They overwinter as a grub to become an adult the next year.



### What do they do to plants?

Usually they eat leaves and cause skeletonization (aka lacy leaves)

Japanese beetles have sharp, chewing mouthparts that help them eat all the green tissue in between the veins. They also will shred flowers and eat fruits like grapes and peaches.



**They can attack and feed on over 300 different species of plants!**

Some favorites include lindens, roses, grapes, blackberries, and peaches. You can see a longer list of host plants by going here:

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef451>

### How can you prevent Japanese beetle damage?

First, consider what you are planting. We can avoid Japanese beetles damage by planting species and cultivars they don't like to eat. You can see some examples of plants they don't like below!

Most oaks



Hollies



Tulip tree



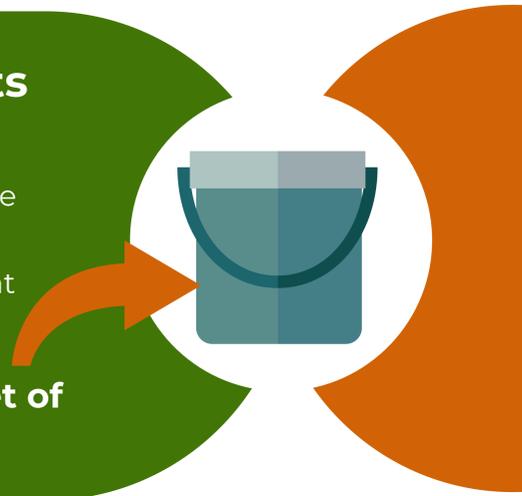
Silver maple



### Make sure to pick beetles off of plants when you see them!

The more a plant is damaged by Japanese beetles, the more beetles are attracted to it. If you go out in the evening and remove beetles by hand you'll cut down on the number that show up the next day!

**As you pick them off, throw them into a bucket of soapy water.**



### You can use insecticides against adult beetles as well

Treating leaves can help kill or repel some of the beetles. Always follow the label and beware of treating anything that is blooming.

**Organic options (3-4 days protection)-** Neem oil, pyola, and BtG (Bt for beetles)

**Synthetic options (1-3 weeks protection)-** Bifenthrin, carbaryl, cyfluthrin, lambda-cyhalothrin



### There are tactics to avoid as well:

- Japanese beetle traps often attract more beetles than they can capture and lead to more damage for your plants.
- You can experiment with them but do not place traps anywhere near plantscape plants to protect.
- Insecticidal soaps and extracts of garlic, hot pepper, and oranges will not help either.



#### Sources

<https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef451>  
[http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/beetles/japanese\\_beetle.htm](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/orn/beetles/japanese_beetle.htm)

Held, David. (2004). Relative susceptibility of woody landscape plants to Japanese beetle (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). Journal of Arboriculture. 30.

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