



JAPANESE BEETLE INFORMATION SHEET

Japanese beetle adults are heavy feeders, attacking both foliage and fruit of more than 250 host plants. There is only one generation per year. Adults appear in summer and are very active for about 6 to 8 weeks. They begin to emerge from the soil in late June or early July, but do not reach their peak until late July and August, then gradually disappear. Their normal life span is from 30 to 45 days. They feed on fruit and foliage of a great variety of plants.

Beetles begin flying when the temperature is about 21°C. Feeding is most extensive on clear summer days when the temperature is between 21°C and 35°C. There is little feeding on cloudy and windy days and no feeding on rainy days.

Beetles prefer to feed on plants exposed to the direct rays of the sun, beginning at the top, regardless of height, and working downward. They feed on the upper surface of the foliage of most plants, chewing the tissue between the veins, leaving a lace-like skeleton. During the first week to 10 days after emergence feeding is confined to low growing plants, then progresses to fruit and shade trees. As leaves on trees become less attractive, the beetles leave the trees and become more abundant on flowers or in field crops such as corn and clover.

On foliage of most plants the adult beetles chew the tissue between the veins, skeletonizing the leaf. On plants with thin leaves and on certain flowers, the beetles chew out large irregularly shaped portions.

Japanese beetle traps can be purchased at your local garden centres. They are quite effective in catching these beetles by using a natural pheromone to draw the beetles into the trap. The package instructions must be followed to be effective. For some types of traps, replacement bags and bait are available. Place traps as far away from your plants as possible.