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Grub Lifecycle



In late June and early July, Japanese beetle adults emerge from the ground and begin to search for food and mates. The adults can fly as far as a mile and feed on a multitude of plants; their favorites include roses, grapes, and linden trees. Other scarab beetles may go unnoticed at this time because they are not attacking ornamental plants.

In July, female beetles spend 2–3 weeks laying up to 60 eggs in the soil. Depending on soil moisture and temperature, eggs hatch about 2 weeks later. These first-stage ("first-instar") grubs feed on grass roots for most of August. The grubs are small, feeding close to the surface, and vulnerable to chemical insecticides at this time. If possible, control high populations at this stage, before feeding on turf roots is noticeable.

From late August through October, grubs molt into a second and then a third stage. As they grow, grubs consume more roots. Damaged turf often appears now.

As temperatures drop in autumn, grubs move down in the soil. They overwinter as third-instar grubs below the frost line.

In the spring, they move up in the soil to feed on roots for a very short time. Most of the lawn damage seen in the spring is a result of fall feeding, not spring feeding.

In late spring, grubs stop feeding and turn into pupae that are resistant to insecticides. In late June or early July, beetles emerge from the pupae and crawl out of the soil, completing the cycle.

Information provided by: <http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/grubs/life.asp>

The most effective way to control grubs is thru a preventive application of Merit. Merit is applied in June or July and prevents the grub eggs from hatching. We have a 100 % grub control guarantee.

There are products available to kill grub in spring and fall, but they are more expensive and less effective than the Merit preventive application.