

## Japanese Beetles

As sure as the coming of spring, we can say with certainty that Japanese Beetles will continue to feed on West Michigan trees and shrubs again this year. In fact, the damage they inflict seems to increase every year.



Adult Japanese Beetles are 3/8 inch long, metallic green beetles with hard copper-brown wing covers. They are herbivores that feed on about 50 different species of plants, including lindens, roses, canna lilies, crabapples, flowering cherries, Japanese maples, grey birch, sycamore, and Virginia creeper.



Adult Japanese Beetles hatch from the ground in late May to early June. Feeding begins in mid to late June and continues through August. They feed on leaf tissue, located between the veins of a leaf, which will resemble lace after they are finished feeding.

Japanese Beetles may appear on your trees and shrubs even if you receive our Merit grub control because these beetles are not property specific. This means they are strong flyers and don't mind crossing lot lines and

borders in order to feed.

If Japanese Beetles begin to feed at your property, treatment options are limited. Pyrethroid insecticides work well, but need to be sprayed every few days; making this type of treatment impractical and time consuming. If you choose to spray, the most effective product is Sevin. The best time to start spraying is in late June, and you should spray early and often. Once Japanese Beetles begin to feed, they send out an odor that smells like Thanksgiving



dinner to other Japanese Beetles, making them extremely difficult to control.

Japanese beetle traps are another option, but not a very effective one. These traps use a pheromone or floral scent to attract beetles. Research indicates that these beetles usually draw more beetles into an area, which will increase egg laying, making the problem worse, not better.

## So what can be done?

- 1) When landscaping, use trees and shrubs that aren't a target of Japanese Beetles.
- 2) Grub control can help reduce the general population of Japanese Beetles.
- 3) If you choose to spray, spray early and often.