

A Bug's Life

Japanese beetle

Popillia japonica

Fun facts

- Attracted to damaged plants
- Strong fliers as adults
- Active June until September
- Overwinter as larvae in soil
- 1 generation per year
- Adults feed on over 300+ plant species including soybean, sweet potato, okra, tomato, rhubarb, etc.

Identification

Damage: Defoliation, skeletonization of leaves and petals, damage to fruit and corn silks

Larva: Cream-colored, C-shaped grub

Adult: 1/2" long, metallic green head and thorax, iridescent bronze wing covers, series of white tufts of hair on each side of abdomen

Management

- Handpick or tap beetles into soapy water in the evenings
- When needed, organic options include neem oil, Pyola, pyrethrins, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Btg); synthetic options include carbaryl, cyfluthrin and permethrin



Photos: J. Green