

*Popillia japonica*  
Japanese Beetle



Photo by Jim Kalisch, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

## HOSTS

Attack over 300 kinds of plants including shade and fruit trees, ornamental shrubs, small fruits and garden crops. Weeds and field crops are often damaged as well. Japanese beetle grubs are serious pests of lawns and turf, other grasses and nursery stock.

## LIFE HISTORY

**Eggs:** White or cream colored eggs are spherical and about 0.06 inches in diameter when first laid. By the time they hatch, the eggs have doubled their original size.

**Larvae:** Grayish-white, C-shaped grubs live in soil. They have brown head capsules and grow to be about 0.6 inches long. Japanese beetle grubs can be distinguished from other white grubs by two rows of tiny spines which form a "V" on the underside of the last abdominal segment.

**Pupae:** Cream-colored pupae are about 1/2 inch long and 1/4 inch wide. They gradually turn light brown and finally develop a metallic green cast.

**Adults:** Shiny, metallic green with coppery brown wing cover and slightly more than 1/2 inch long. Five white spots on each side of the abdomen and 2 white spots on the tip.

## DAMAGE

Japanese beetle adults often feed in groups. On most hosts, leaves are skeletonized and the mature fruit is damaged. Grubs, in the soil, kill patches of grass by feeding on and sheering off the grass roots.



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