

**INSIDE GRUNDY COUNTY**  
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The Japanese beetle's presence has been confirmed in several surrounding counties. While Grundy County has not been listed among the counties with confirmed populations, concerns about them are being raised. Therefore, this week's column will provide background on the Japanese beetle including what to look for and what to do about them. The Horticulture & Home Pest newsletter was the source of the following information.

The Japanese beetle is a well-known pest of turfgrass and landscapes in the eastern United States. Japanese beetles have been reported from thirty seven different counties in Iowa since 1994, predominantly in the east-central region of the state. Adult beetles eat the foliage, fruits and flowers of over three hundred plants. Foliage is consumed by eating the tissue between the veins, a type of feeding called skeletonizing. Flowers and fruits are devoured completely, often by a horde of a dozen or more beetles at a time. Roses, grapes, raspberries and linden tree leaves are some of their favorite plants to eat.

Japanese beetle larvae are typical white grubs. They are in the soil from August until June where they feed on plant roots (especially turfgrass) and organic matter. The grubs are C-shaped and approximately one and a quarter inches long when full grown.

Adult beetles emerge in mid-June through July. They are similar to other Junebugs in general appearance, and three eighths inch long and one quarter inch wide. The head and thorax are a shiny metallic green and the wing covers are coppery red. The row of five tufts of white hairs on each side of the abdomen is a distinguishing feature.

Control of adult beetles is difficult because they emerge every day for a period of several weeks. Handpicking or screening of high-value plants may be of benefit in isolated situations with limited numbers of beetles. Spot spraying infested foliage of high value plants with carbaryl (Sevin), permethrin (Eight) or cyfluthrin (Tempo) may reduce damage for several days, but multiple applications are required to maintain control. Spraying the adult stage is not an effective strategy for prevention of white grubs.

Several traps using a floral lure and sex attractant are available. Use of these traps is not recommended. Research conducted in Kentucky suggests that they are not effective in controlling moderate to heavy infestations and may attract more beetles into a yard than would occur otherwise. The traps may reduce damage and populations when landscapes are isolated from other Japanese beetle breeding areas or when mass trapping (everyone in the neighborhood) is used.

For more information about the Japanese beetle, contact the Grundy office of ISU Extension at 319-824-6979. To sign up for the Horticulture & Home Pest newsletter, go to:  
<http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/user/register>.