Japanese Beetles Spotted in Marion County

Japanese beetles have a wide host range that includes many species of fruit and vegetable crops, ornamentals and field crops. Adults are metallic bronze and green with white tufts along the side of the abdomen. This pest is becoming a more common corn and soybean pest in Iowa, but until recently had not been reported in Marion County.

Master Gardener Jane Koogler sent an email early in August saying, “I just photographed this colorful little guy on my Sky Harvest Moon Echinacea (see picture on right). Did a quick walk through the rest of our garden, but did not see any others today.” Erin Hodgson, an assistant professor of entomology with extension, says there have been no confirmed sightings of Japanese Beetles in Marion County, but will now add it to the map (see below).

While Japanese beetles feed on more than 300 different plants their top favorites are grape, cherry, apple, rose, raspberry and (especially) linden. A link to a list of the Japanese beetle’s most- and least-favored woody plants can be found at the following website: www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/2010/7-14/japanesebeetle.html. Defoliation of well established, healthy trees is usually not fatal.

Defoliation is most harmful to trees planted in the last two to three years and trees in poor health.

The foliage of recently planted and high-value trees can be protected with a soil-drench application of a systemic insecticide, such as imidacloprid (Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control and other products). To be effective, treatments must be made several weeks ahead of beetle emergence (late spring).
The Green Scene is a tip sheet developed by the Marion County Extension Office to inform people of horticulture events, problems, and interesting ideas. Let us know if you want to be added to our mailing list. Some issues are also available at [www.extension.iastate.edu/marion](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/marion). This material has been prepared Karen Ackley, Agriculture Program Assistant. If you have questions, please contact the office at (641) 842-2014.

### September Checklist

- Plant tiger, Oriental, and Asiatic lilies this month. The first two weeks of September are also a good time to plant perennials or to divide and transplant perennials you already have.
- Bring houseplants indoors before the nights get too cool.
- Now is a good time to take cuttings. Many plants produce roots from the cut end of a stem when it is planted in the soil. Herbaceous perennials such as coneflowers, hardy geraniums and phlox make good candidates.
- Reseed/overseed lawns early in the month. Keep the soil moist until the seeds sprout. Sod lawns anytime this month through October. Keep watered.
- Start with core aeration and dethatching, leaving about ½” of thatch to decompose.
- Fertilize with one pound Nitrogen per 1000 square feet to encourage top growth and winter hardiness.
- Control broadleaf weeds using Trimec, Momentum, and Millennium.

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### Farm Crawl 2013

**Sunday, October 6th from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Eight independent family farm operations, all within an easy drive of each other in south-central Iowa, are hosting simultaneous open houses. Enjoy a leisurely autumn day “crawling” (i.e., driving) from farm to farm.

Tour the farms, visit the animals, meet the farmers, sample the goodies, purchase locally grown products and have lots of fun outdoors! Visit special guests at some of the farms. Free admission on to all of the farms (there is a charge to enter the corn-maze at Dan-D Farm). Visit [www.farmcrawl.com](http://www.farmcrawl.com) for more details.

The eight farms include: **Blue Gate Farm**, **Coyote Run Farm**, **Dan-D Farm**, **Pierce’s Pumpkin Patch**, **Reichert’s Dairy Air**, **Schneider Orchards**, **Crooked Gap Farm**, and **White Breast Pottery**.

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### Enroll in Master Gardener Classes !!

Master Gardener classes begin September 24th. To obtain an application packet, contact the ISU Extension – Marion County Office; 210 N. Iowa St., Knoxville, IA 50138; 641-842-2014; email: [kackley@iastate.edu](mailto:kackley@iastate.edu) or visit our website [www.extension.iastate.edu/marion](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/marion). Then complete the application and submit with the instructional fee by Wednesday, September 11, 2013. Those who enroll after September 11th will be assessed a $25 late fee.