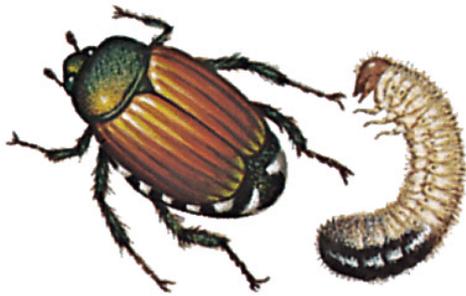


Japanese Beetle Discovered in the Village

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has notified the City that they have discovered a population of Japanese Beetles in the Cherry Hills Village area near the Cherry Hills Country Club in the Little Dry Creek basin. The USDA along with the Village are asking residents to educate themselves on this highly destructive insect including methods to manage its spread. The information in this article was obtained from the Colorado State University Extension and the USDA.

What is the Japanese Beetle?

The Japanese Beetle is a highly destructive plant pest native to Japan. The beetle can grow to about ½ inch long and is often considered an “attractive” insect, with metallic green and copper wing coverings and white tufts of hair along its sides and rear. The Japanese Beetle grubs or larvae feed on grass roots, which can cause extensive damage to lawns, golf courses, and pastures. The Japanese Beetle adult attacks and devours foliage, flowers, and fruits of more than 300 different plants. Leaves that have been eaten by the Japanese Beetle usually look like a “lacy skeleton.”



Japanese Beetle: adult and grub (larva)



Japanese Beetle can devour entire plants and often reduce leaves to lacy skeletons

What is the Japanese Beetle's current distribution?

The Japanese Beet was first discovered in the United States in a New Jersey plant nursery in 1916. In its native Japan, the beetle has natural enemies that keep its population in check. However, the Japanese Beetle entered the U.S. without its natural enemies and found a favorable climate and abundant food supply that contributed to its spread of distribution.

Populations of Japanese Beetles steadily migrated west and by 1972 there were reports of beetle infestations in 22 states east of the Mississippi River. Since then, the beetle has spread to southern and western states. In 2003 the first discovery of the Japanese Beetle in Colorado was made near Palisade. More recently, the beetle was discovered near the Cherry Hills Country Club golf course and other golf courses along the Front Range.

What can homeowners do to control the beetle?

There are no quick fixes that can rid homeowners of the Japanese Beetle. The USDA recommends an integrated pest management (IPM) program that combines biological, cultural and chemical strategies. These include setting traps, drying turf at key stages during the beetle's life, and carefully applying chemicals. These include setting

traps, drying turf at key stages during the beetle's life and carefully applying protectant chemicals. It is not necessary to eliminate the beetle in order to protect trees, plants and lawns, but rather manage the pest at a tolerable level. The USDA provides greater detail of this approach in a brochure they created titled "Managing the Japanese Beetle: A Homeowner's Handbook"

(http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/plant_health/content/printable_version/JB3-07.indd.pdf). It is not necessary to eliminate the beetle in order to protect trees, plants, and lawns, but rather manage the pest at a tolerable level.

Where can homeowners get more information on the Japanese Beetle?

More information can be obtained from the USDA's website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/jb/index.shtml. Additionally, the Colorado State University Extension's website contains information on the beetle: <http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05601.html>.