

**Insect pests of fruit**

**Japanese beetle**

Adult beetles are about 13 mm long with a metallic green thorax and shiny, brown wing coverings. Rows of white tufts are distinctive on the undersides of the abdomen. Male and female beetles congregate on the tops of plants in sunlight, where they feed and mate. Adult beetle emergence begins in early June in North Carolina and early July in Michigan.



Adult beetles feed on ripe fruit and foliage.

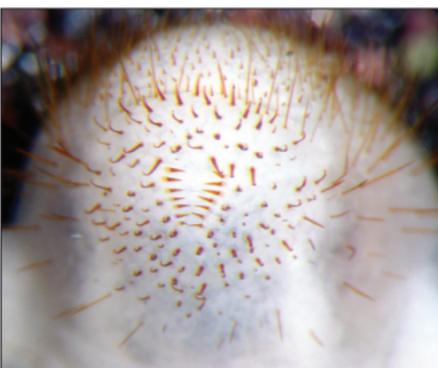
 13 mm

Mating occurs as soon as females emerge from the ground. Then they seek grassy areas with moist soil to lay eggs. Eggs are 1 to 2 mm in diameter, spherical and white, and are laid 5 to 10 cm deep in the soil in batches throughout the female beetle's month-long life. C-shaped, cream-colored grubs with brown heads and three pairs of legs develop in the soil, becoming 3 cm long when fully grown.

Japanese beetle grubs can be distinguished from similar grubs by two rows of seven hairs in a V shape on the inside of the posterior segment. Beetles are best detected on blueberry bushes during calm, hot, cloudless afternoons. Traps for monitoring Japanese beetle are highly attractive but can increase the number of beetles flying into an area. In small plantings, beetles can be removed from bushes. Control of attractive weed hosts and removal of grassy areas in and around fields during July and August can reduce field suitability for Japanese beetle.



C-shaped grubs are found in soil under grassy areas



Biological control agents suppress populations in areas where the beetle is established.

Japanese beetle grubs have hairs in a distinctive V pattern.

**Additional resources:**

[Michigan Blueberry Facts - Japanese Beetle](#)