

## Japanese Beetle

*Popillia japonica*

**Not known to be present in Hawaii**

A small metallic-green beetle with a host range of over 300 plants. The soil-borne larvae munch roots of turf crops and skeletonize leaves and flowers.



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Feeding damage by Adult beetles



Grubs live underground and can damage turf.



### Impacts

- Soil-dwelling larvae feed on plant roots reducing the ability of grass to take up water during times of stress and causing dead patches and destroying turf.
- Adults feed on leaves and flowers, skeletonizing the leaf surface. They are most active on warm sunny days
- Estimated to be the single most destructive and widespread pest of turf, landscape, and ornamental plants in the eastern US, costing approximately \$450 million each year in management alone.



### Identification

- Adult is a small, attractive oval-shaped beetle, 8 to 12 mm (1/3- 1/2 inch) long and 6 mm (1/4 inch) wide. They are metallic green with bronze wing covers. Note the 5 patches of white hairs on either side of the abdomen that differentiates this beetle from similar-looking beetles.
- Indications of pest infestation include leaves that are skeletonized and flower damage.



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[plantpono.org/pest-prevention-training/](http://plantpono.org/pest-prevention-training/)

Report

[643pest.org](http://643pest.org)



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## Vectors/Commodities

- Over 300 species of plants are known to be host to Japanese beetles.
- Primary hosts are *Acer* (maples), *Asparagus*, *Glycine* (soybean), *Malus* (ornamental apple), *Rubus* (blackberry, raspberry), *Tilia* (basswood, linden), *Vitis* (grapes) and *Zea* (corn).



## Distribution

- Native to Japan but spread to China, Russia, Portugal, Canada, and the US.
- In the U.S. it has become established in at least 30 states and is found in all states east of and bordering the Mississippi River with the exception of Florida.
- **It has been intercepted repeatedly in quarantine on Oahu.**



## Best Management Practices

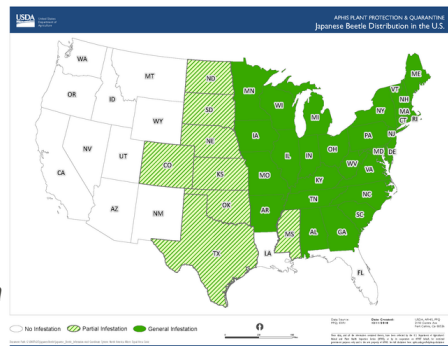
- This species is not found in Hawaii. Prevention and early detection efforts protect Hawaii's nursery industry and environment.
- Consider sourcing options and pest distribution when purchasing plants.
- BOLO: Be on the lookout! Carefully inspect host plants for Japanese beetles, particularly if leaves are skeletonized or flowers are damaged.
- Report suspected beetles to [643pest.org](http://643pest.org), or by phone to 643-PEST (7378).



## Selected References:

- Japanese Beetle Information for USDA APHIS [www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/japanese-beetle/japanese-beetle](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/japanese-beetle/japanese-beetle)
- Species Profile for Japanese Beetle from USDA National Invasive Species Information Center [www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/invertebrates/japanese-beetle](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/terrestrial/invertebrates/japanese-beetle)

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The Distribution of the Japanese beetle in the US. Map by USDA APHIS



David Cappaert, Bugwood.org

Five patches of white hair distinguish Japanese beetle from other beetles.



Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Japanese beetles will eat flowers as well as leaves.



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