Washington State Department of Agriculture

PEST ALERT

Common name Japanese Beetle **Latin name** *Popillia japonica*

Description:

WSDA detected more than 24,000 Japanese beetles near Grandview in 2021. In 2024, over 26,700 beetles were caught in Yakima, Benton, and Franklin counties and 32 beetles were trapped near SeaTac in King County.

Japanese beetles are highly invasive pests of more than 300 plants, including roses, grapes, and hops. The adult beetles damage plants by skeletonizing the foliage. Adults also feed on buds, flowers, and fruit on the plants and are frequently intercepted with freight from the Eastern U.S. The larvae are found in soil associated with the roots of host plants. They are common under turf/sod and can be moved in potted plants.

Japanese beetles would pose a serious threat to farms, gardens, and the environment if they were to become established in Washington State.

ADULT
- Approximately 1/3 to 1/2 inch long.
- Metallic green head and thorax with copper wing covers.
- Sides of abdomen have five white patches of hairs, and tip of abdomen has two patches of white hair.
- Seen during the summer.

LARVA (grubs)
- White c-shaped grub with brown/tan head and visible legs.
- From 1/8 inch up to about one inch long.
- Seen during the spring.

Japanese beetle grubs look like other white grubs and can only be positively distinguished by examining the pattern of spines and hairs on the underside of the tip of the abdomen.

Contact us for more information:

WSDA Pest Program
pest@agr.wa.gov
1-800-443-6684

Learn more and report suspected sightings:
https://agr.wa.gov/beetles

Photos: