

# JAPANESE BEETLE

COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE

*Popillia japonica*



**Did you know?** The Japanese beetle is a major pest in lawns, but does far less damage in places with plants that have deep, well-established root systems!

**Did you know?** Leaves that have been damaged by Japanese beetles release chemicals that attract more Japanese beetles! These chemicals are kairomones, similar to pheromones, but unlike pheromones they bring harm to the organism that emits them.

**Did you know?** Larvae of the Japanese beetle are hard to distinguish from larvae of other closely related beetles, such as the June beetle (*Cotinis nitida*, fact sheet #24). In fact, the only way you can tell the difference is to examine the pattern of setae (fine hairs) on their butts!

**Look and see!**



Skeletonized leaves are a calling card of the Japanese beetle.



Japanese beetles often aggregate on plants that have already been damaged!



Credits:

Photos: vincenzogarcea ([inaturalist.org/people/vincenzogarcea](https://www.inaturalist.org/people/vincenzogarcea)), aggregation; miguelberkemeier ([inaturalist.org/people/miguelberkemeier](https://www.inaturalist.org/people/miguelberkemeier)), top photo; Andrew Block ([inaturalist.org/people/conuropsis](https://www.inaturalist.org/people/conuropsis)), leaf damage

Facts: CABI Digital Library (<https://doi.org/10.1079/cabicompndium.43599>); University of Minnesota Extension ([extension.umn.edu](https://extension.umn.edu))

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