

# Grubs

## Identifying Grubs

Grubs found in lawns are the larvae of Japanese beetles or June beetles. Grubs are white with dark heads and are C-shaped. They hatch about 2-3" below the soils surface and forage on the roots of grass.



## Indication of Grubs

If you have grubs in your lawn you will see irregular shaped patches of grass that are dying or dead in April, May, August, September, or October. If the grub problem is really extensive the grass can be lifted up and rolled back like a carpet. Raccoons or moles may cause further damage to the lawn by digging up the turf to eat the grubs.

## When to Treat?

If there are only a few small patches of grub infestation the turf will usually recover in one season with regular watering and fertilizing. If you are not sure how severe your grub problem has become, there is an easy test to test your grub population. Dig up one square foot of the lawn, flip the grass over and count the number of grubs you find in one square foot. If the number is higher than six, you should treat your lawn immediately.

## Treatments

Grub treatments can be costly to treat an entire lawn with a serious grub infestation. If your area is known to have grub problems or you've experienced them before you may want to consider applying grub control as a preventative treatment. The same material that is used for preventative can also be used as a curative treatment if your lawn is already infested with grubs. Grub treatments are granular and are applied through use of a fertilizer spreader.

## Repairs

When severe grub damage has occurred it is likely that a portion or all of the lawn may need to be replaced. This requires having the lawn re-seeded or the removal of the existing turf and the laying of new sod. The cost of these lawn repairs is why so many people chose to apply a preventative grub control treatment or hire their lawn company to do so.

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# Japanese Beetles

Japanese Beetles were first introduced into the United States in 1914 from Japan. They have become one of the most damaging pests to urban landscapes. They forage their way through landscapes feeding on about 300 different species of plants, roses are one of their favorite plants in Iowa. Japanese beetles are attracted to an area if there are desirable plants and if there are other Japanese beetles present.

## Identifying

Japanese beetles are about 3/8" long and they are metallic green in color with copper brown wing covers. The leaves they forage on will have a lace like appearance to them with the tissue of the leaf chewed out between the veins of the leaf.



## Plant Selection

There are certain species of plants that attract Japanese Beetles more aggressively. If you can avoid planting desirable species of plants you can avoid larger populations of beetles. If you have problems with Japanese Beetles some plants to avoid are: Roses, Japanese Maples, Norway Maple, Hollyhock, Rose of Sharon, Flowering Crabapples, London Planetree, Fruit Trees, Grapes, Ash, and American Linden.

## Removing Beetles

The presence of Japanese Beetles at one location will encourage more Japanese Beetles to this spot. If the population of Japanese Beetles is small, it may be beneficial to physically remove beetles by hand. An easy way to do this is to put a bucket of soapy water under the plant in the morning hours when the beetles are still sluggish and tap the leaves of the plant to make the beetles fall in the bucket of water.

## Insecticides

There are a number of insecticides that can be sprayed on plants to deter Japanese beetles from foraging on them. Neem oil works extremely well as is also organic. Bayer 2 in 1 Rose care also works well on roses. They must be reapplied every one to four weeks, read the label of the product for specific guidelines.

## Japanese Beetle Traps

Japanese Beetle Traps lure in beetles with pheromones and an attractive sweet smelling food. The smell is such a powerful attractant that it can draw in thousands of beetles in just a single day. While the traps do work it is important to note that if they are not placed correctly they can cause more harm than good. Beetles will forage on their path to the trap so it is important to place the traps on the outer fringes of landscape plantings.

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