

IN THE GARDEN

May by Jolene Adams

Beetle Mania???



The Washington State Nursery and Landscape Association has sent out a warning that Japanese Beetles have been found in Washington State. JB's are highly invasive pests and a threat to more than 300 plant families, including roses, hops, grapes, apples, and turf grass. The adult beetles damage plants by skeletonizing the foliage. Adults also feed on buds, flowers, and the fruit on the plants.



Japanese beetle larvae are found in soil associated with the roots of host plants. They are common under turf or sod and can be moved from one location to another in potted plants, infested turf/sod, gardening soil, and yard waste.

If Japanese beetles were to become established in our state, they would pose a serious threat to gardens, parks, and farms by destroying vegetation. Costly quarantines would also be established, making it increasingly difficult and expensive to move any agricultural products and even nursery plants within and outside of the infested states. Remember - California is "Big AG" and Oregon supplies major landscape companies with their rolls of turf.

California has been monitoring for Japanese beetles since the 1980s. Every year, the Dept of Agriculture usually detects some Japanese Beetles at major California airports and seaports where the beetles "hitchhike" on cargo planes and ships. Do you get irritated at having to stop at the state border for an Ag inspection? Yeah, me too - but this is also the first line of defense for California to stop the entry of dangerous pests into California. We just had a seminar (sponsored by ARS) on the Spotted Lanternfly which is trying to invade our state. We need to be observant in our gardens, parks and when we are out hiking in the foothills. "If you see it, report it!"

JAPANESE BEETLE IDENTIFICATION

Adult JB	Larvae (grubs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-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-Tip of abdomen has two patches of white hairs-Seen during the summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-White "C-shaped" grub with brown/tan head and visible legs-From 1/8 inch to 1 inch long-Seen during the spring in the soil

An excellent recorded webinar from Washington State Ag is located at: <https://watech.webex.com/recording/service/sites/watech/recording/4de987fcdc8946a8a6aa7e8f7eabca97/playback>

