

IMPACT OF JAPANESE BEETLES IN TURFGRASS AND AS A PEST IN FIELD CROPS

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The Japanese beetle is one of the most important and destructive pests of turfgrass and ornamental plants in the eastern United States. Adult beetles attack a wide range (over 300 species) of plant materials including soybeans. Immature life stages or larvae (i.e., grubs) are also destructive. Grubs typically feed on the roots of all cool-season turfgrasses and on other plant roots often resulting in severe damage or death to plants. Although Japanese beetle adults are typically found aggregating in relatively large numbers, most damage is aesthetic and has no measurable economic impact. Consequently, control measures are not usually implemented, especially in field crop situations. However, Japanese beetle grubs can cause economic problems, especially to turfgrass and ornamental plant materials. As a result, insecticides are applied both preventatively and curatively to minimize damage or loss.

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