



Greenhouse Pest Message, July 7, 2023
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Scarab beetles are active now.

Scarab beetles (**Asiatic garden beetles**, **Oriental beetles**, and **Japanese beetles**) are active now and feed on herbaceous perennials, annual bedding plants, woody, and vegetables.

Asiatic garden beetle adults are about 3/8-inch-long and cinnamon-brown in color. Asiatic garden beetles feed **at night** on *Aquilegia*, *Aster*, basil, *Chrysanthemum*, *Dahlia*, *Delphinium*, *Helianthus*, *Heuchera*, *Phlox*, *Rosa*, *Rudbeckia*, *Salvia* and *Zinnia*. Their nighttime feeding causes c-shaped notches on the edges of leaves.

During the day, adults burrow into mulch or soil or under pots.

Apply contact insecticides against adults; however, repeat applications may be needed.



Figures 1 & 2 & 3 Adult Asiatic Garden Beetles (left) and their feeding damage on garden mums and basil (right). Photos by L. Pundt

Adult Japanese beetles are from 1/3 to 1/2 inch long, metallic green with copper-colored wing covers and white patches of hair near the end of their abdomen. Adults feed during the day on over 300 species of plants, skeletonizing the foliage by chewing out the plant tissue between the veins.

Japanese beetles are extremely mobile, and once feeding begins, the pests emit feeding or aggregation pheromones attracting other beetles to the same location. Japanese beetle traps can increase feeding damage unless they are placed away from favored host plants. In small plantings, adults can be knocked into a container of soapy water.



Figures 4 & 5: Feeding damage from adult Japanese beetles and knocking adults into soapy water. Photos by L. Pundt

Contact insecticides can be applied as soon as the adult beetles are observed. Read labels carefully for bee safety precautions.

Oriental beetle adults are about ½ inch long, straw-colored or dark-brown with dark markings on their wing covers. Adults emerge from the soil in mid-June and are present until August. This beetle may feed on daisy flowers and their relatives but rarely causes much injury. Adult beetles also do very little foliage feeding.

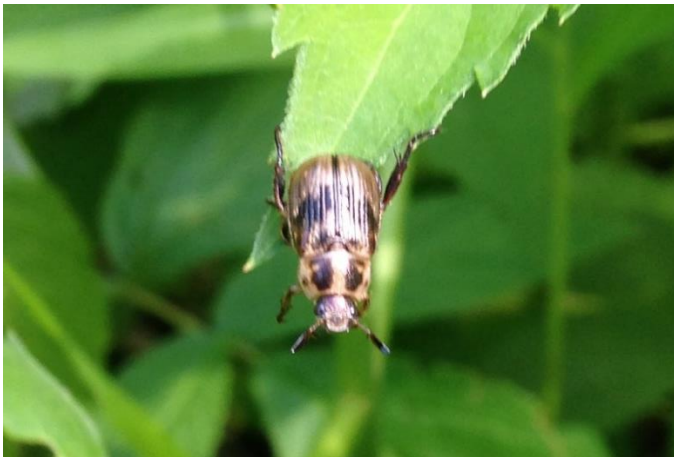


Figure 6: Oriental beetle adult. Photo by L. Pundt

Their larval stages (“white grubs”) cause damage by feeding on the roots of grasses during the fall and spring months. There is one generation a year.

EPA Seeking Comment on Bilingual Labeling

The EPA Bilingual Labeling Requirements under the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act of 2022 (PRIA 5) require EPA to solicit all stakeholders on the best methods to make bilingual labeling accessible to farmworkers and increase awareness of the program.

PRIA 5 amended the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, requiring Spanish language translation for key health and safety sections of the end-use pesticide product labels.

Public input that includes environmental justice perspectives with solutions will be key in helping the Agency develop a strong starting point for addressing historical disadvantages for farmworkers.

Comments must be submitted by **August 21, 2023**. Federal Register Notice on Open Comment Period:

Bilingual Labeling Docket: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/EPA-HQ-OPP-2023-0270-0003>

GrowerTalks Insecticide, Miticide and Fungicide Guide: is available in both English and Spanish https://www.growertalks.com/pdf/2023_IMF_Guide.pdf

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