

# Japanese beetles have arrived in the Miami Valley

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I haven't heard a report of them yet but I suspect by the time you are reading this, Japanese beetles have arrived in the Miami Valley.

Each year around the end of June, the adult Japanese beetles emerge from their pupal cases in the ground to begin mating, feeding and egg-laying.

As with all pest problems, sometimes the populations are high and sometimes they are low. And sometimes they are high in certain areas of the state and at the same time, non-existent in others.

Last year for instance, the northern part of the area had very few Japanese beetles. However, when I asked readers about populations in their areas, the Beavercreek readers responded with lots of them.

What will populations be this year? We just have to wait and see. Even the best entomologists won't predict populations. There are just too many variables.

Japanese beetles don't kill plants, they just make them ugly! So when it comes to using pesticides to control them, you have to think about a few things.

First, they like specific plants and if you have these specific plants in your landscape and there are Japanese beetles present, you are guaranteed to find them on these plants.

They have a pretty broad list of plants that they prefer, including and especially roses, littleleaf linden trees, raspberries, grapes, and my prized hibiscus.

Next you have to consider the fact that if you are going to use pesticides, you will have to spray more than once and for as long as they are feeding (sometimes up until the end of August).

Then you have to bring in the idea of populations and mix this with the types of plants in the landscape.

For instance, I don't worry about spraying the linden trees. It is what it is. They will look bad if populations are high but these trees are too big to spray and since they won't die, I let them go.

On the other hand, I love my hibiscus and if the populations are higher than just a few that I can remove by hand, I resort to pesticides.

Hibiscus flowers are ornamental and Japanese beetle feeding injury totally destroys the ornamental value. They look awful and make the rest of the garden look pretty bad too.

My point is for you to really think about it before you take out the spray bottle and apply pesticides. Is it worth it? In some cases yes and in some, no.

There are very good pesticides on the market to use for control of Japanese beetle adults. Products containing bifenthrin or cyfluthrin work great, but have to be reapplied periodically.

Look for pesticides that contain both the insect controlled (Japanese beetle) and the plants that you are spraying (landscape ornamentals).

As always, follow label instructions!