

Japanese beetle

Popillia japonica

FEATURES

The Japanese beetle is about three-fourths to one and one-fourth inches in length. Its upper body is metallic blue-green with red-brown coloration on the wing covers. There are white, hairlike patches on the lower abdomen. The larva is a white grub.

BEHAVIORS

The Japanese beetle may be found throughout Illinois. It is active mainly late June through August. Beetles undergo complete metamorphosis (egg, larva, pupa, adult). The eggs are laid in soil in grassy areas. Overwintering is in the larval stage. The adult eats leaves, flowers and fruits of many plants, including ornamentals, fruit trees, corn and soybeans. They are very damaging to many plants. The larvae eat plant roots. The Japanese beetle was accidentally brought to the eastern United States on nursery stock from Japan in 1916. It has now spread to most of the eastern United States.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia
Division: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Coleoptera
Family: Scarabaeidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, nonnative

ILLINOIS RANGE





adult

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; marshes; peatlands; swamps; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests; southern Illinois lowlands; upland deciduous forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie