

COLLECTING BEETLES

Hand collecting can be used to protect valuable plants when beetle activity is relatively low. The presence of beetles on a plant attracts more beetles. When you remove beetles daily by hand from a plant, only about half as many are attracted to that plant compared to those on which beetles are allowed to accumulate. One of the easiest ways to remove beetles from small plants is to shake the plants or handpick the Japanese Beetle in early morning (about 7 a.m.) when the temperatures are low and the beetles are sluggish. The Japanese Beetles may be killed by shaking them into a bucket of soapy water and ensuring that they are submersed in the mixture.

The Japanese Pheromone traps use two different lures. One mimics the scent of virgin female beetles and is highly attractive to males. The other bait is a sweet-smelling food-type lure that attracts both sexes. This combination of ingredients is such a powerful attractant that a trap can draw in thousands of beetles in a day.

Any plants that grow rapidly are especially attractive to the Japanese Beetles. Roses unfold quickly and are especially attractive to beetles. When beetles are abundant and very difficult to control you may consider removing the roses from your rose plants to protect the rest of the plant. Then spray to protect the leaves or option B cover the roses with netting or plant protection cloth to keep beetles out.

Japanese Beetles are fond of some weeds and native plants such as Bracken, Elder, Multiflora Rose, Mallows, Sassafra, Poison Ivy, Smartweed, and Wild Grapes. Eliminating some or all of these source plants will reduce your chances of attracting Japanese Beetles to your garden.