

# *“Solutions for a happier lawn and garden”*



## **BEETLES, BEETLES EVERYWHERE BEETLES, BEETLES CAUGHT IN MY HAIR (Japanese, Oriental, Asiatic, & European Chafer Beetles)**

Have you innocently been working in your garden or enjoying a cocktail on your patio, when all of a sudden, "IN-COMING!" you get dive bombed by a beetle that proceeds to get trapped in your hair or stuck to your shirt?! This crazy kamikaze pilot is either the Japanese Beetle, Oriental Beetle, Asiatic Garden Beetle or European Chafer. They are notorious this time of the year in Connecticut.

The metallic, brown and green, Japanese Beetle gets all the fame or blame, depending on how you look at it. Every hole we see on a rose, a weeping cherry, basil, or pepper plant, we tend to blame on the showy Japanese Beetle. Its coppery color shines in the sun and they tend to cluster on a plant while they feed and mate. They get all the glory but they should be sharing the spotlight with a few other scarab beetles. Oriental Beetles can be out spotted during the day but their mottled gray and black body is just not as interesting as the Japanese Beetle. Because they do their flying at night, they are not as obvious until they end up tangled in your pony tail. The Asiatic Garden Beetle and European Chafers are other night time flying beetles that fall under the radar due to their night time clandestine activities. Don't be fooled by that plump, little, chestnut brown Asiatic Garden Beetle. It can do a lot of damage to plants at night and then it stealthily burrows itself in the soil during the day. Have you ever noticed devoured Basil leaves but no critter? I bet the Asiatic Garden Beetle is the sneaky bandit. Dig at the base of an eaten Basil and you may find him hiding in the soil.

This night time dive-bombing of Kamikaze Scarab Beetles will not last forever. They are busy flying, eating, mating, and laying eggs right now, but in a couple of weeks they will be done. BEWARE OF WHAT LURKS BELOW...GRUBS! All of these Scarab Beetles lay eggs in the soil of our gardens and lawns. The next phase that we have to pay attention too is the white, c-shaped grub stage that will be hatching sometime in August. We can't see them lurking below the mulch or our turf but they can really be a menace, especially to our lawns. It's hard to believe that these ugly looking grubs come from these somewhat flashy beetles. The newly hatching grub babies are very hungry and feed on roots from summer hatch to late fall. We don't even notice the damage until next spring. Those sneaky, little devils!

What should we do to stop these dive-bombing beetles and sneaky little grubs?! The beetles are pretty easy to control. There are several good products that will wipe them out especially when it comes to ornamental plants.

### **Products for Ornamentals:**

- Japanese Beetle Killer by Bonide
- Eight by Bonide
- Rose & Flower Insect Killer by Bayer

### **Products for Veggies:**

- Japanese Beetle Killer by Bonide
- Eight by Bonide
- Pyrethrin by Bonide
- Vegetable Garden Insect Spray by Bayer





Products for Herbs: End-All by Safer

The discreet grub stage of the beetle requires a different form of treatment and product timing. Here are the products that work to control grubs in the lawn.

Pro-Active Product to control grubs before they hatch:

-Bayer Season Long Grub Control applied June 15 – August 15. This product is best if watered in or applied before a rainfall. If applied within this time frame, it will control grubs throughout the rest of the fall season!

-Nematodes. An organic way to control grubs in the soil. Apply now through August to take care of grubs naturally. Definitely needs to be watered in for a week following application to keep Nematodes from drying out and to spread them over a larger area.

Re-Active Product to control grubs after they hatch:

-Bayer 24 Hour Grub Control Plus applied toward late August/begin September. This product must be watered in or applied before a rainfall to be affective. It kills on contact. You may need to make a follow up application a month later.

-Nematodes. They will work pro-actively and re-actively!

Take charge of these crazy night time feeders and sneaky underground dwellers. Don't spend one more evening untangling them from your hair.

Come see us at Van Wilgen's. We would love to help!

Thanks a bunch...Stacey

*Van Wilgen's*

**Garden Center**

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