KRAMER TREE SPECIALISTS

# JAPANESE BEETLE

Hosts:
Lindens, Birch, Elm, Crabapple, Plum, Cherry, Apple, Hawthorn, Norway maple and Serviceberry.

## SYMPTOMS

- Adult beetles consume upper leaf surface
- Leaves exhibit lace-like skeleton of veins
- Lower layer dries, turns brown, resembling scorched appearance

## LIFE CYCLE

- Larvae feed on turf grass roots in spring
- Pupate after feeding
- Adult beetles emerge around July, feed for six weeks
- Mated females lay eggs, which hatch into grubs feeding on turf roots in summer
- Larvae tunnel deeper for winter, resurface in spring to feed, continuing the cycle

## OUR APPROACH

## MANAGEMENT

- Timing of Insecticide Application: Spring application protects present year's beetles; fall application protects next year's beetles.
- Cumulative Effect of Annual Applications: Consecutive annual applications increase protection levels against beetles.
- Beetle Behavior: Research indicates attraction to previously damaged foliage; minor leaf ingestion precedes beetle elimination.
- Effective Control Measures: Early spraying when beetles are active reduces damage; repeat applications might be needed during the 6-8 week active period.
- Alternative Control Methods: Handpicking and placing beetles in soapy water effective for smaller plants; disturbance causes beetles to fly away or drop.
- Impact on Plants: Damage primarily aesthetic; feeding late in season minimally harms plant health; selective treatment advisable for key landscape plants.

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