



BURKE COUNTY CENTER

RADIO TRANSCRIPT

Date: June 23, 2020
Subject: Controlling Japanese Beetles
Agent: Donna Teasley

Hello, this is Donna Teasley, Horticulture Agent with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Burke Center.

I saw the first Japanese beetles of the season last week on some ferns. I do hate to see the pesky little critters arrive each year. They eat over 300 different varieties of plants and can chow down on anything from roses to poison ivy.

Once beetles have been spotted, they will stay and feed for 4 to 6 weeks while laying eggs in the soil. Perseverance is the key to controlling them and if control is not attempted, plants can be quickly devoured. Japanese beetles are day feeding insects and can be seen in clumps on flowers and leaves. When a beetle finds a food source, it gives off a pheromone that tells other beetles that there is food in the area-hence the clumps of feeding beetles.

Because of their hard shells, they aren't eaten by birds and can only be killed when they actually eat a poison. For this reason, insecticides must be reapplied frequently, especially after rain so that the insecticide is present on the plant material where the beetles are feeding. There are many insecticides listed for Japanese beetle control so when looking for an insecticide, read the label for the appropriate choice.

Steer clear of traps because they aren't a very effective method of control as they attract even more beetles to the area. If beetles are present in low numbers, picking them off and dropping into a bucket of soapy water is sufficient.

This is Donna Teasley with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Burke Center. If you would like more information about this program you can call us at 439-4460.