

WHY ARE WE SEEING SO FEW JAPANESE BEETLES THIS SUMMER?

Dave Smitley, Entomology

Many people in the southeast Michigan are very happy about the reduced numbers of Japanese beetles that they have seen this summer. Some have called and asked if it is because of our biological control program with the protozoan pathogen, *Ovavesicula popilliae*. Although *Ovavesicula* has established well, it is still too early in most of Southeast Michigan to cause a sudden decline of Japanese beetles. *Ovavesicula* will take about five years after the initial introduction to effect the numbers of Japanese beetles in your garden.

So what did happen? Most likely, we are seeing fewer Japanese beetles in areas where the soil was dry last year in July and August. Japanese beetle grubs do not survive well in dry soils. If it was very dry last July and August, the adult beetles would try to avoid laying eggs in the dry turf and soil, and if it was moist when they laid eggs, then became very dry later, the grubs did not survive. Since adult Japanese beetles fly around an area the size of two football fields or more, then all the turf within an eighth of a mile of your house could be producing beetles that will find their way to your lawn and garden. If most of that turf was dry last year, then few beetles emerged this summer.

Another thing that happened this summer is the cool weather. At cool temperatures, beetles are not as active as during warm temperatures. So, even if we had the same number of beetles, you would see less activity during a cool summer.

But this idea that Japanese beetle grubs survive best in moist soil means that they will survive well this summer and fall, so lots of beetles will emerge next summer, probably much more than what we saw this summer.



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Contact us!

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THE GREEN INFORMANT

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AUTUMN COLOR GLOWS

ARE YOU A WINNER?

Lawn Tech is awarding our loyal customers by offering a *Landscape Improvement Package*. In each quarterly newsletter, look for your customer number in the prize box. If your customer number is posted you could win a deep root fertilization for four trees applied by Lawn Tech.

If your customer number is listed, call our office to confirm and your name will be entered into the drawing. Each drawing will have a deadline to call by, so be sure to read every issue.

Congratulations to Roger Fudge of Holt for winning the summer promotion of deep root feedings for four trees completed by Lawn Tech.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

- Gardening Website
- ??????????
- Pest Perimeter
- Landscaping Corner

Fall is officially here on the calendar, but we all know it was felt intermittently throughout the summer.

Wet and cool conditions definitely favored the lawns this year, with minimal heat or drought stress seen. Some turf diseases were more active than in previous years, with insect activity on the mild side. With the weather pattern, this was an expected outcome. Grub activity was light, as well as mild Japanese beetles.

The fungus *Rust* has been active and increasing as we progress through September. This fungus causes an orange film on grass blades that causes discoloring of the turf as well as a dusty film on shoes and mowers. This will pass as rain showers come and temperatures stabilize.

The large rainfall amounts and cool temps this year also contributed to many tree ailments. Crab trees were hit with fire blight, scale was active on trees and shrubs, pines have experienced stress factors, and maples have had some leaf drop in early spring. Year-to-year, Mother Nature never ceases to amaze us with her checks and balances.

As we approach the end of the regular season, we begin planning for 2010. The staff and I have already begun to look to next year's season. Our fall clean-up contracts and snow removal contracts have been mailed, with mowing contracts soon to go out for 2010. Please look for your yellow 2010

Prepay Renewal for your *Weed and Feed Services* the first week of January to take advantage of the prepay discount and other special offers.

Our \$5.00 coupon voucher was a success this year. Customers that read our spring newsletter were able to take advantage of this special. This will be repeated in 2010 in one of our issues as well, so be sure to read every issue.

There were many internal changes this year at Lawn Tech to help us streamline our services and day-to-day operations. Taking account the current economic conditions, we were prepared for the season and have had success with these changes. During this process, our concerns were to maintain the same quality of service, same quality products and maximize our staff. Sounds easy right? As with any small business, it has been a challenge and the staff and I hope we have provided a level of service to you in 2009 that meets your utmost satisfaction. We look forward to being on your lawn again in 2010.

As we close the regular season, I would like to *Thank You* on behalf of the staff for your patronage and if there is anything we can do to improve your lawn or landscape, please call on us!

Enjoy the fall colors!

Dan Boak

Dan Boak
President

"Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile."

-William Cullen Bryant

CURT'S LANDSCAPING CORNER

TREE AND SHRUB MAINTENANCE

As we go through the summer months, our trees and shrubs need some special care. The following is a list of recommended maintenance.

- Pruning and trimming of new growth and dead wood .
- Mulching of landscape beds if not done in the spring.
- Watering, if needed.

- Schedule a fall deep root fertilization.
- If damage was done to leaves by insects, schedule a preventative insect and disease spray for next year.
- Limb up lower branches on large trees for ease of mowing.

If you need help with your landscape please feel free to give me a call to discuss.

Curt Boak, Landscape Designer

MSU GARDENING WEBSITE USEFUL FOR FALL

Andrea Buchholz, IPM Communications Specialist
<http://www.migarden.msu.edu/>

MSU's *Gardening in Michigan* web site has hit the ground running this summer with helpful instructions for the beginner gardener. The site launched just in time to support the renewed interest in gardening. According to Burpee Seeds, 20 percent more households are growing vegetables, fruit and herbs this year compared to last. This means the United States gained about seven million new gardeners in 2009.

Since debuting in May, the web site has added a new feature. Short, "how-to" videos are available from MSU Extension educators and include summer thinning of apple trees, grape insect prevention, summer rose care and a four-part series on composting. Look in the "What's new" section on the homepage for more updates this fall.

Interested in preserving all those fantastic veggies and fruits you've harvest this summer? Be sure to click on the "Preservation" section for basic preserving information and helpful tips. Fact sheets are available for the following:

FRUIT

- Apples
- Blueberries
- Cherries
- Peaches
- Pears
- Raspberries
- Strawberries

VEGETABLES

- Asparagus
- Broccoli
- Cabbage
- Corn
- Potatoes
- Summer squash
- Winter squash

LAWN TECH PRIZE BOX

If your customer number is posted, call our office by November 7, 2009 to be entered into the drawing for one holiday wreath delivered by Lawn Tech. Customer numbers:

5483	4333	6256	4174	1120	4101	4113	4693
2119	6182	1506	3132	4368	3620	2136	3852
11180	6254	2260	4260	3047	2054	5332	4484
4130	2852	4289	11141	1352	5497	3398	2651
6126	6337	3415	5178	3219	4190	4374	1393
4776	5553	11146	5133	3187	4251	5206	4703
3382	3900	5674	2885	5470	3820	3403	2920
4344	5070	4070	2448	2063	5219	5494	4072

Keep those ants and spiders from taking up residence in your home...

Start a *Perimeter Pest Control Program* today! Plans start at \$31.20 per visit.

2010 PREPAY RENEWALS WILL BE MAILED THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY! LOOK FOR THE YELLOW ENVELOPE FROM LAWN TECH!

**FALL IS A GREAT TIME FOR CORE AERATION!
 CALL TODAY FOR A QUOTE OR ASK YOUR TECHNICIAN!**

Are moles active in your lawn??

Call today to have Lawn Tech start a *Baiting Program*. Programs start at \$193.00.

\$\$\$ LAWN TECH REFERRAL COUPON \$\$\$

Keep this coupon! When someone asks about your lawn service, complete this coupon and give to your service technician or return by mail. We'll follow up on your lead. For every new customer sold an annual "Weed and Feed Program" by LAWN TECH, we will send you \$20 AND your referral will receive a \$10 credit on their account!

YOUR NAME _____ Acct. No. _____

ADDRESS _____

PROSPECT'S NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____