

From the Landscape Committee

Do you recognize us?

We're Japanese Beetles. We're iridescent green, highly destructive...and we're back! We arrived last week and are happily munching our way through the landscape at Stoney Brook. Some of our favorite snacks include roses, marigolds, basil, and Virginia creeper vine. However, we are known to feed on up to 300 different species of plants.



Though you may be tempted to put up a one of those yellow “beetle traps” to control us...**please don't**. Beetle traps contain a lure (pheromones, flower scents or both) that draws beetles to your garden—not all of which end up in the trap. These beetles produce pheromones that invite others to join them. Research shows that Japanese Beetle infestations are actually *worse* in areas with beetle traps than without them.

Spraying us with insecticides is also a bad idea since such chemicals kill beneficial insects like ladybugs and bees. The best way to keep us from harming your plants is to hand pick us off leaves and drop us into a bowl of soapy water.

You can also deter us from your garden by spraying your plants regularly with **neem oil**, an organic, non-toxic, biodegradable oil available at hardware stores and home centers. Neem oil won't harm plants, pets, or children, yet we find the stuff repellant.

Click [here](#) for a fact sheet about us from the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension.