

Japanese Beetle Grubs



With 2011 having an unusually dry spring, and the summer rains not starting yet, there have been quite a few instances of grubs showing up in potted plants rather than turf. The Japanese Beetle grubs prefers the roots of bahia grass. However, when the turf soil is dry, the Japanese Beetles will lay their eggs in the nearest source of moist soil. With nursery pots regularly irrigated, they present a prime location for grub infestation. This time of year is when the nearly mature grubs are moving to the surface of the soil before becoming adult beetles. These grubs are from last year's eggs, sometime in spring 2010. Now is the time to treat for grubs, both in your pots and surrounding turf. If this year's mature grubs are not treated before becoming beetles, they will lay eggs which will hatch in one to two weeks, and begin feeding. Treatment can occur over the course of the summer, using any granular systemic pesticide, such as Talstar. As the young grubs mature they will progress deeper into the soil and by late September will be unaffected by pesticides until they emerge again next Spring. For specific recommendations for your area, contact your local county extension office. For more information, see our sources:

<http://www.pestproducts.com/whitegrubs.htm>

<http://www.life123.com/home-garden/gardening-tips/garden-pests/the-japanese-beetle-life-cycle.shtml>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_beetle

<http://ohioline.osu.edu/hyg-fact/2000/2504.html>