

# Kansas State University Extension Entomology Newsletter

For Agribusinesses, Applicators, Consultants, Extension Personnel & Homeowners

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May 12, 2022 No 4

Japanese Beetles  
Bug Joke of the Week

## Japanese Beetles

Japanese beetles (see fig 1-adults) were 1<sup>st</sup> recorded in Kansas in 1992. However, they have been in the U.S. since about 1916, and have been a serious pest of ornamental and agricultural crops in several states east of Kansas for many years. They seem to be slowly spreading across Kansas from east to west, and there have been reports of small but dense populations of Japanese beetles extending west past Interstate I-35 (see fig 2-soybean plants defoliated by adult Japanese beetles in Republic Co. in 2021-photo by J. Hammer). Japanese beetle larvae, commonly called white grubs, can now be found in some no-till areas of fields that were infested with the adults in 2021 (see fig 3 by J. Hammer). This is becoming more common because the adults feed for a short time then fly to nearby undisturbed areas to oviposit. Depending upon when these adults emerge they may feed on young corn leaves, silks, and/or young soybean leaves, as far as agricultural crops are concerned.



Figure 1 Adult Japanese beetles



Figure 2 Soybean defoliation by Japanese Beetles in 2021, Republic Co., KS



Figure 3 Japanese beetle larvae, 2022, from field in Fig. 2.

Jeff Whitworth – Field Crops

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## Bug Joke of the Week

Today, I saw a green insect on a car window. It must have been some kind of glasshopper.

Sharon Schroll

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[HOME](#)

**Sincerely,**

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Department of Entomology

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