

## JUNE BEETLES

(*Polyphylla* and *Phyllophaga* spp.)

### Description

The milky-white, thick bodied and brown-headed larvae feed on and damage the roots of crops. Often the main stem of seedlings or transplants is cut off below the soil surface causing the shoots to dry out and turn brown. Damage usually occurs in late spring through the summer when grubs feed voraciously on the roots. Adults are about 3 cm long, shiny, and dark brown, feeding on deciduous foliage without doing much harm.

### Life Cycle

These insects have a 3 to 4 year life cycle. Grubs overwinter in the soil for two and a half years at which time they grow from 0.3 cm at emergence to 2.5 cm by the second autumn. During winter, they commonly descend deeper into the soil to escape freezing soil temperatures. In spring, larvae move toward the surface and feed on roots. On the third year of development, larvae pupate about 10 cm below the soil surface for about 5 weeks; after pupation they remain in the soil until the following summer. Adults emerge in June or July, breed and come back down to the soil to lay creamy-white eggs that are about 3.4 by 2 mm in size, and slightly oval. Eggs hatch in 2 to 6 weeks.

### Hosts

Grubs feed on most seedlings, but monocots (turf/grass) are preferred. Adults feed on the leaves of most deciduous trees.



Ten-Lined June Beetle Grubs