



Rose Chafers

2010 Control Recommendations



Description

Rose chafers are a type of beetle. They are orangey-brown in color, about 3/8" long with noticeably long legs. The adults appear during the month of June and are usually gone by July. The larvae does not do any significant damage.

Damage

Rose chafers feed on a wide variety of flowers and shrubs their favorites being roses and peonies, especially those with white flowers. They typically feed right inside the flower, ruining it. They also feed on the leaves of a variety of shrubs. In 2005 we had our first report of rose chafers damaging oaks and maples, not typical of this pest.

Life Cycle

Rose chafers overwinter as grubs in the soil, usually in uncultivated areas. These grubs do not damage lawns the way other grubs do. The larvae pupate in May and emerge all of a sudden in mid June (in our region) often in startlingly large numbers. The adults live on the average of just 3 weeks but can do considerable damage. They lay eggs in the soil in June, again in uncultivated areas which hatch into grubs that feed on plant roots. There is one generation per year.

Control

Rose chafers are difficult to control with sprays. No insecticide can be used on a plant in flower, especially when your target pest is actually inside the flower as this one often is.

Whenever possible start with handpicking as many of these bugs as you can. It sounds impossible but once you get the knack you can be quite effective. Hold a jar of soapy water (no gasoline or kerosene, please!) underneath the branch that has beetles. They tend to drop from the branches when disturbed so your goal is to catch them in the soapy water as they drop. Wait a few hours before dumping out the soapy water to make sure they have completely drowned.

Insecticides to control rose chafers include carbaryl (Sevin), neem oil, or permethrin (Bonide Eight Insect Control for Vegetable, Fruit & Flower). Check the label to make sure your plant and this pest is listed and remove any open flowers before spraying.

Remember that rose chafer adults are usually gone by July so if your problem occurs late in June spraying may not be necessary.

Lake Friendly Gardening Tip – Think Before You Spray!

Make a note of when these beetles appear in your yard each summer then get ready when they first appear – you might be able to keep them in check with handpicking.

If it's the end of June when they are just about finished for the year consider if you can avoid spraying at all. If it's early June and you decide to spray remember to keep the spray away from any open flowers to avoid harming the honeybees.

If there is one plant they attack every year, consider replacing it with something they ignore. White flowers are more attractive to this pest than other colors.

PESTICIDE DISCLAIMER: Every effort has been made to provide correct, complete and up-to-date pesticide recommendations. Nevertheless, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly, human errors are still possible. These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Please read the label before applying any pesticide and follow the directions exactly.

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Resource: 2009-2010 Pest Mgt Around the Home – Part II