

Friday – July 10, 2020

BILL: And good morning and welcome into our Friday edition of Ag Talk. This is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Friday is usually reserved for our horticulture topics. And I got to admit Ed, all my life I thought the Beetles were from England and you're going to tell me this morning they're Japanese.

ED: Well these will make more of a presence for most people, but they won't sing for you they will just cause a lot of damage in your plants. But they are going to begin to show up in the area and the thing is Japanese beetles are voracious eaters, Bill, they can really chew on leaves and things. They especially like to eat grapes, hollyhocks, roses and linden trees. I mean they can literally just chew off between the veins and you just thought something just completely devoured them. Here's the thing though, when they first emerge, the earlier ones that emerge are like scouts and they're going to go out and look where the best food sources are. And they're going to emit a chemical that tells all the other beetles where to come to for the good stuff. And the thing of it is if you're vigilant and looking at your garden plants and such and you capture or stop that first beetle that you see you'll greatly reduce the population that's going to come to your home later on in the summer. So you'll greatly reduce the numbers and we recommend you just have soapy water just brush them off in the soapy water. I mean you can crush them if you want to but that's going to take care of them as your out there checking you gardens and also your roses and other things. If the population gets bad enough later on and they're just really doing a lot of damage almost any insecticide is going to be effective in stopping them. There may be another wave later. Insecticides only lasts about ten days so you may have to spray again but it will really be effective. The challenge we have though is we really discourage people from spraying plants if they are in the flowering situation because that means that you're going to be killing bees and other things if you spray the insecticide. Somewhat challenging if the beetle is actually feeding on rose flowers, which they will do, so you just got to use some common sense there and try to that, like a linden tree if it was in full flower, man, bees love a linden tree you don't want to be out there spraying at that time for the Japanese beetle. You want to wait until that flowering quits and then go after the beetles. The thing comes up every year people ask about traps. Traps are not an effective control method. You mean you like it because you can see them in there and you think yea we got those suckers but the problem you run into is it's got a pheromone in there it just brings more beetles to your yard. It's an attractant to bring them to that trap. So your also telling all the beetles to come to your place because it's a good place to be and you won't trap all of them. So avoid traps but look for these scouts and remove them and hopefully you can keep the population down this year.

BILL: Thank you Ed. For Ag Talk this is Bill Rice along with Ed Lentz. Good morning to you.

Ed: Good morning.