White Grubs in Vegetable Gardens

by Alexandra Spring and Eric Day

Depicted are 3 species, among the pest complex called "white grubs." The photo is useful as a comparison for size and appearance of these. The species L to R are: Japanese beetle, *Popillia japonica*, European chafer, *Amphimallon majalis*, and june bug, *Phyllophaga* sp. *David Cappaert, Michigan State University, Bugwood.org*

Description: Several species, but the most common white grub is larva of the Japanese beetle. Other white grubs can be May beetles, June beetle, chafers, and other scarab beetles. White grubs are white or light yellow, hard brown heads, curved; 1/2 inch to l 1/2 inches long when fully grown. White grubs live in soil. They require 3 years to mature.

Common host plant(s): Potato and peanut.

Damage: Larvae feed on roots and underground parts of potato and many other plants. Adults feed on tree foliage.

Distribution: Throughout United States.

Cultural Control: Turn over the soil in late summer or early fall. This will kill many grubs and expose others to predators.

Organic/Biological Control: Birds, hogs, and skunks are natural predators of the grubs. Parasitic wasps may also provide some control.

Chemical Control: Apply a planting time soil insecticide, follow all label precautions and directions.

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