

Why has the Japanese Beetle become such a problem here? USDA scientists say the lack of natural predators in the United States is one reason. Another is that the beetle is so prolific. One female beetle can produce up to one million offspring in three years' time. The beetle also finds the United States a perfect habitat for its peculiar lifestyle and in the adult stage seeks out some 275 different forms of plant life to feast upon. The larva stage of the beetle is attracted to the sweet roots of lush lawn grass causing brown and bare spots in the lawns and allowing the bitterer crab grass to run wild. 1000 adult beetles seen during the summer can produce up to 50 thousand larvae in the soil by fall. The most effective control for the Japanese beetle is a natural bacteria isolated by USDA scientists call Milky Spore disease. This spore attracts the larvae of the beetle in the soil and has the unique property of multiplying inside the larvae until they are totally consumed by the disease. When this occurs, up to 3 billion new spore per insect are liberated into the oil to attack other larvae. Only one application of the spore is necessary but faster results can be achieved by applying in Spring, Summer and Fall in two consecutive years.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES  
AND HINTS**

**1. Works Immediately**

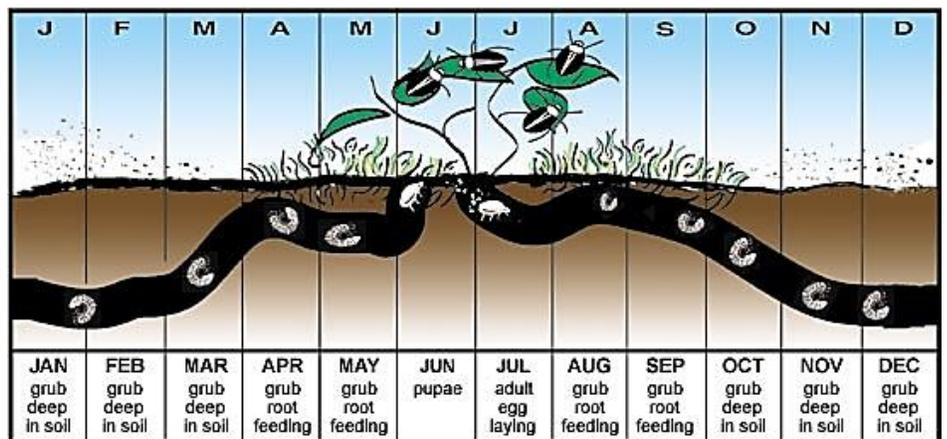
Milky Spore begins working immediately as long as larvae are present in the soil. Time must be allowed for infection to begin and the spore to multiply. The more larvae the faster the spore will spread through the lawn.

**2. Spreading the Spore**

If you have a large area and wish to use a fertilizer spreader to put down both spore and fertilizer at the same time, it will be necessary to use the granular form for proper dispensing. Otherwise, you will need to double the amount of spore powder that you use. The spot method is used to insure that the grubs which move through a concentrated spot of spore will ingest enough to become infected. When the spore powder is dispensed in a thin layer with a fertilizer spreader, more must be used to have the same effect.

**3. Checkerboard Pattern**

Spore Powder can also be applied in spots every four feet, in a straight line so that a checkerboard pattern results. Apply one measuring teaspoon at each spot. The result is a rate of application of 10lbs. per acre and is recommended by USDA.



**Lifecycle of Japanese Beetle**

**4. Soak in the Spore**

Spore Powder must be soaked into the ground so that the larvae will ingest it. After application, water the area for at least 15 minutes. Applying the spore before a rain is also effective. Any delay in watering may allow the wind to carry away the powder and waste it.

**5. Apply from March to October**

The time to apply is anytime when the ground is not frozen. For vegetable gardens apply after rototilling is completed in the spring so the spore powder can settle into the ground and not be disturbed for the growing season. Larval spread of the spore will be at maximum under these conditions. Rototilling in the next season will help spread the new spore released by the dead insects.

**6. Freezing Will Not Degrade Spore**

Milky Spore remains stable at low (freezing) and high soil temperatures.

**7. Environmentally Safe**

Spore is not harmful to humans, domestic or wild animals or beneficial insects. Prior to using any landscape product, you should read the label and warnings carefully. It is completely safe when used as directed.

**8. Shake the Can**

The Spore powder tends to pack down easily. In all cases, it is important to fluff up the contents as you use it by shaking the can.

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