

# Down the Garden Path



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## YARD

### Begin Plans for Japanese Beetle Control Now

*Tim Gibb, Extension Entomologist*

Japanese beetles are emerging from ten days to two weeks ahead of schedule this year. Turfgrass plots in West Lafayette yielded their first adult beetles on June 11. This early onset of Japanese beetles simply means that they will attack plants slightly sooner this year.

Plants particularly at risk include those that have recently been transplanted or those that are stressed for one reason or another. Japanese beetles do have their favorite foods as well. These include plants such as linden, crab apple, plum, and other fruit trees, rose bushes, grapes, and several garden variety vegetables. Physical (netting or picking off the beetles each day) or chemical controls will be required to save plants in some cases.

The fact that the adult beetles are out sooner this year, also means that the eggs will be laid in turfgrass and will hatch into white grubs sooner this year as well. Insecticides available to the public for grub control include Bendiocarb (Turcam, Intercept), Diazinon, Trichlorfon (Dylox), Isufenphos (Oftanol), or Carbaryl (Sevin). Any of these materials can be used as rescue treatments. This simply means that the chemicals work if applied AFTER the grubs have hatched - usually the end of July or the first part of August, depending on where in the state you live.

Two other very effective grub control products, relatively new to the market must be used differently. These include Imidicloprid (Merit, Grubex) and Halofenozide (Mach 2). Both products are very long-lasting and can be applied as preventative treatments - in late June or throughout July - and still achieve good grub control in August when the grubs appear.



As with all homeowner-applied pesticides, read and follow label directions. For grub control products it is recommended that granular formulations be used and that 1/2 inch of irrigation be applied immediately after treatment. In cases where irrigation is not possible, timing the application to just before a significant rainfall event is recommended.

For more information, refer to Purdue University Cooperative Extension Publications *E-75 Japanese Beetles* and *E-61 Turf Insect Management*, available from your local county Cooperative Extension Service office or via the internet ([www.btny.purdue.edu/ppdl](http://www.btny.purdue.edu/ppdl)). ☺



**Table 1.** Seed Harvest Times for Prairie Plants

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Seed Harvest Time</u>
<i>Agoseris cuspidata</i>	Prairie Dandelion	July
<i>Allium canadense</i>	Wild Garlic; Canada Garlic; Wild Onion	Aug.
<i>Anemone canadensis</i>	Canada Anemone;	Aug. - Sept.
<i>Arenaria stricta</i>	Rock or Stiff Sandwort	Late Aug. & Sept.
<i>Asclepias hirtella</i>	Tall Green Milkweed	Late Sept.
<i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i>	Woolly or Green Milkweed	Aug.
<i>Asclepias meadii</i>	Mead's Milkweed	Aug.
<i>Asclepias ovalifolia</i>	Oval-leaved Milkweed	Sept.
<i>Asclepias purpurascens</i>	Purple Milkweed	Sept.
<i>Baptisia leucantha</i>	White False Indigo	Sept.
<i>Baptisia leucophaea</i>	Cream False Indigo	Aug. - Sept.
<i>Cacalia atriplicifolia</i>	Pale Indian Plantain	Sept. Oct.
<i>Ceanothus americanus</i>	New Jersey Tea	Sept. - early Oct.
<i>Cictua maculata</i>	Spotted Cowbane;	
	Water Hemlock	Sept. - early Oct.
<i>Cirsium hillii</i>	Hill's Thistle	Late July
<i>Comandra richardsiana</i>	False or Bastard Toadflax	Aug.
<i>Convolvulus sepium</i>	Wild Morning-glory;	
	Hedge Bindweed	Sept. - Oct.
<i>Cacalia tuberosa</i>	Tuberous Indian Plantain	Late July
<i>Calopogon pulchellus</i>	Grass-pink Orchid; Calopogon	Late Sept.
<i>Camassia scilloides</i>	Wild Hyacinth; Camass	July
<i>Caramine bulbosa</i>	Bulbous or Spring Cress	Aug.
<i>Carex sp.</i>	Sedges	Summer & Early Fall
<i>Castilleja coccinea</i>	Scarlet Painted Cup or Indian Paintbrush	Sept.
<i>Castilleja sessiliflora</i>	Downy Yellow Painted Cup	Sept.
<i>Convolvulus spithameus</i>	Upright or Low Bindweed	Aug.
<i>Coreopsis lanceolata</i>	Sand or Lanceleaved Coreopsis or Tickseed	Sept.
<i>Delphinium virescens</i>	Prairie Larkspur	Sept.
<i>Desmodium illinoense</i>	Illinois Tick-trefoil or Tick-clover	Sept.
<i>Dodecatheon meadia</i>	Midland Shootingstar	Aug. - Oct.
<i>Elymus canadensis</i>	Canada Wildrye	Sept. - Oct.
<i>Erigeron philadelphicus</i>	Marsh or Philadelphia Fleabane	Aug.
<i>Euphorbia corollata</i>	Flowering Spurge	Early Sept.
<i>Fragaria virginiana</i>	Wild Strawberry	June & July
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw	Sept.
<i>Galium obtusum</i>	Meadow Bedstraw; Wild Madder	Sept.
<i>Galium tinctorium</i>	Dye Bedstraw	Sept.
<i>Geranium maculatum</i>	Wild Geranium	Aug.
<i>Geum triflorum</i>	Prairie Smoke; Long-plumed	
	Purple or Prairie Avens	Late May & June
<i>Helianthemum canadense</i>	Canada or Common Frostweed or Rockrose	Aug.
<i>Heuchera richardsonii</i>	Midland Alumroot	Late July
var. <i>grayana</i>		
<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	Vanilla Grass; Sweet or Holy Grass	June
<i>Houstonia caerulea</i>	Bluets; Innocence; Quaker Lady	July
<i>Houstonia longifolia</i>	Longleaf Bluets	Sept.
<i>Hypoxis hirsuta</i>	Yelloweyed Grass	Sept.
<i>Iris virginica shrevei</i>	Wild Blueflag	Sept.

## THE GRAPE VINE

### Collecting Seeds from Prairie Plants

Mike Dana, Horticulturist

Landscaping with native plants affords the interested person the opportunity to help preserve some of the plant bio-diversity that has been largely lost in our developed world. In Indiana, the eastern peninsula of the tallgrass prairie is mostly gone, but rare, isolated patches of remnant prairie still exist in some pioneer cemeteries, railroad rights-of-way, farm acres, and out-of-the-way road ditches.

In order to achieve the widest possible preservation of genetic material from the wild when planting new prairie into the landscape, it is desirable to collect seed from local sources. Of course, seed collecting should only be done with permission of the landowner, and seldom should actual plants be removed. The exception to the rule is if a site is imminently threatened with destruction, in which case, "plant rescue" is appropriate.

Seed collection is a relatively easy task. The key to success is to know when to look for ripe seed. Success in using the seed for a planting project depends on the seed's viability. Fall is usually a productive time for seed collecting, but for many species, it may be well past the time that seeds are ripe and collectible.

Once most seed is collected, it should be stored in a cool, dry manner. If the site has been prepared, the seed can be sown immediately. This allows for natural "stratification," or moist chilling to occur during the winter which generally results in better germination the following spring. Table 1 can serve as a reference for immediate and future prairie plant seed collecting. Harvest times are purposely somewhat general, allowing for variability of climatic conditions.

Additional entries for the table were presented in *Down the Garden Path*. last fall (No. 122, October 28). A copy of this issue is available via the internet ([www.purdue.edu/ppdl](http://www.purdue.edu/ppdl)) or by contacting the Plant and Pest Diagnostic Laboratory (765-494-7071). ☺

## OVER THE BACK FENCE

**Q:** Every evening millions of tiny frogs cover our front porch and back deck. This has been a chronic warm weather problem since we built our house (3 years ago) next to an undeveloped, wooded, overgrown lot with poor drainage (maintains standing water almost year round). They cover our exterior (white) doors and all the (white) columns on our front porch. Whenever you open an exterior door, they immediately jump on you and in the house. Is there anything we can do to discourage them from visiting us?



**A:** The site that you selected for your home sounds like ideal frog habitat and a long-term resolution to your frog problem may require some serious habitat modification such as improved drainage and vegetation management. As a test, cover over one door or column with black plastic (garbage sacks will do) or dark blanket and see if the frogs congregate on the dark surfaces. If they avoid the dark surfaces, consider repainting your doors and columns in a dark color.

Your frogs may also prefer a smooth surface. Try covering over one door or column with screen wire. The rough texture may deter them. Frogs are insect eaters. They may be coming to feed on the insects that are attracted by your porch/security lights. Try turning off these lights for several nights and see if the frogs leave. You can also try repelling or eliminating insects in this area with citronella or a general insecticide. Remember the insecticide is for controlling the insects, not the frogs.

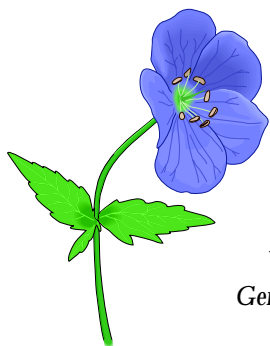
The habitat in your neighborhood is ideal for frogs, but it is also ideal for mosquitos. Frogs eat mosquitos, so your frogs may be providing an invaluable service – as well as being a nuisance.

--Judy S. Loven, State Director,  
Indiana Wildlife Services ☺

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<i>Krigia biflora</i>	False Dandelion or Two-flowered Cynthia	Sept.
<i>Lactuca canadensis</i>	Danada Wild Lettuce	Sept.
<i>Lactuca ludoviciana</i>	Wild Lettuce	Sept.
<i>Lathyrus venosus</i>	Showy or Veiny Wild Pea or Vetchling	Sept.
<i>Lilium michiganense</i>	Michigan Lily; Western Turkscap Lily	Late Sept.
<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i> var. <i>endinum</i>	Wood Lily; Orangecup Lily	Sept.
<i>Linum sulcatum</i>	Grooved Flax	Sept.
<i>Lithospermum canescens</i>	Hoary Puccoon; Golden Gromwell	July
<i>Lithospermum croceum</i>	Hairy Puccoon	July
<i>Lithospermum incisum</i>	Narrow-leaved Puccoon	July
<i>Lobelia spicata</i>	Pale Lovelia	Sept.
<i>Lupinus perennis</i>	Wild Lupine	Aug.
<i>Lysimachia lanceolata</i>	Lance-leaved Loosestrife	Aug.
<i>Lysimachia quadriflora</i>	Narrowleaf or Whorted Loosestrife	Sept.
<i>Oenothera perennis</i>	Small Sundrops	Sept.
<i>Oxalis violacea</i>	Violet Wood Sorrel	July
<i>Pedicularis canadensis</i>	Wood Betony; Lousewort	Late May
<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	Smooth Penstemon or Beardtongue	Sept.
<i>Penstemon pallidus</i>	Pale Penstemon or Beardtongue	Aug. - Sept.
<i>Petalostemum candidum</i>	White Prairie Clover	Late Sept.
<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>	Purple or Violet Clover	Late Sept.
<i>Phlox glaberrima</i> var. <i>interior</i>	Smooth Phlox; Marsh Phlox	Aug.
<i>Phlox pilosa</i>	Downy or Prairie Phlox	July
<i>Polygala incarnata</i>	Pink Milkwort or Polygala	July
<i>Polygala polygama</i> var. <i>obtusata</i>	Purple or Bitter Milkwort or Polygama	July
<i>Polytaenia nuttallii</i>	Prairie Parsley or Polytaenia	Aug. - Sept.
<i>Potentilla canadensis</i>	Oldfield Cinquefoil or Potentilla	Sept. - Oct.
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	Sept. - Oct.
<i>Potentilla simplex</i>	Common Cinquefoil	Sept.
<i>Psoralea esculenta</i>	Prairie Turnip; Indian Breadroot; Pomme de Prairie	Early Sept.
<i>Psoralea tenuiflora</i>	Slimflower Scurfpea	Early Sept.
<i>Ranunculus fascicularis</i>	Tufted Buttercup	June
<i>Ruellia humilis</i>	Hairy Ruellia or Fringeleaf	Sept.
<i>Salix humilis</i>	Prairie or Upland Willow	May
<i>Scutellaria parvula</i>	Small Skullcap	July
<i>Senecio pauperculus</i>	Balsam Groundsel or Ragwort	July
<i>Senecio plattensis</i>	Prairie Groundsel or Ragwort	July
<i>Silphium integrifolium</i>	Wholeleaf Rosinweed	Late Sept.
<i>Sisyrinchium albidum</i>	Common or Pale Blue-eyed Grass	July
<i>Sisyrinchium campestre</i>	Blue-eyed Grass	July
<i>Smilacina stellata</i>	Starry False Solomonseal	July
<i>Stipa spartea</i>	Neddlegrass or Porcupine-grass	About July 1
<i>Taenidia integerrima</i>	Yellow Pimpernel or Taenidia	July
<i>Tephrosia virginiana</i>	Goatsrue; Hoary Pea	Aug.

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Wild  
Geranium

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<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	Purple or Tall Meadowrue	Aug. - Sept.
<i>Thalictrum revolutum</i>	Purple or Waxy Meadowrue	Aug. - Sept.
<i>Thaspium trifoliatum</i>	Meadow Parsnip	Aug. - Sept.
<i>Tradescantia ohiensis</i>	Common or Ohio Spiderwort	Aug. - Sept.
<i>Valeriana ciliata</i>	Valerian	Late June
<i>Viola papilionacea</i>	Common Blue or Smooth Blue Violet; Meadow Violet	July
<i>Viola pedata</i>	Birdsfoot or Pansy Violet	July
<i>Viola pedatifida</i>	Prairie or Larkspur Violet	July
<i>Viola sagittata</i>	Arrowleaf Violet	July
<i>Viola sororia</i>	Hairy Blue or Wood Violet	July

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\* from: Prairie Propagation Handbook, by Harold Rock, Boerner Botanical Garden.

## UPCOMING EVENT

Purdue Pesticide Programs and Agricultural Statistics Service will survey Indiana cantaloupe growers on their pest control practices. The survey results will enable regulatory agencies, public policy officials and environmental groups to discuss knowledgeable pesticide-use issues. The in-field data collected would prevent decisions based only on worst case assumptions.

The confidential survey will be conducted in the fall and results available in 1999. The Purdue Pesticide Program as a member of NAPIAP (National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Program) and Purdue Cooperative Extension Service will coordinate the study in conjunction with the Indiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Growers are encouraged to participate if contacted. ☺

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