



DELAYED by WEATHER

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As a whole, in Wisconsin, everything seems to be about 2-3 weeks behind this year. When is the last time you have seen your turf in the condition that it is now? Based on averages, temperatures this year have been considerably below the expected "normal" (i.e., approximately 8 degrees Fahrenheit). In addition, we have had nearly 20 inches of rain in the Dane county area during the months of May and June. As a result, insect activity has been quite unpredictable as well as delayed this year. In fact, the flight of adult Japanese beetles is considerably different this year compared to 1999. Last year, beetle flight occurred earlier and lasted for a rel-

atively short window (i.e., approximately 21-28 days) of time. This year the beetles emerged several days later (i.e., approximately 10 days) and the flight appears to be prolonged by nearly 18-21 days with beetles continuing to emerge, fly, mate, and lay eggs. This occurrence could signify prolonged grub feeding and subsequent late-season turf damage.

A steady stream of phone calls from various parts of the state this year indicate that Japanese beetles are slowly expanding from areas where they have previously been over the past couple of years (i.e., Eau Claire, Rock, and Walworth counties). This year, they were

reported in Dane, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Milwaukee, Racine, Waukesha counties. And, to their benefit, the needed rainfall that we have recently received will do nothing but aid in the survival and expansion of Japanese beetles. It is likely that we are on the upward side (i.e., beginning) of the curve for Japanese beetles, thus we can expect to experience their continued presence and subsequent destruction. Since this turfgrass pest is relatively new to Wisconsin, and its presence is likely to increase, the next issue of *The Grass Roots* will feature an article on budgeting insect control for 2001. ♣

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