

TIMELY INFORMATION

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Green June Beetle Damage to Fruit Crops

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Green June beetle is considered a serious pest that injure fruits of numerous crops including grapes, apple, pear, quince, plum, apricot, peach, nectarine, blackberry and raspberry. They are attracted to the ripening grape clusters and fruits as the sugar content increases and fruit soften. Green June beetle populations fluctuate from year to year and in the damage caused to fruit crops ranges from negligible in some years to considerable in other years. High population numbers of Green June beetles are observed recently on maturing bunch grapes in Alabama (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Green June beetles feeding on Seyval Blanc grape.
Photo image: Elina Coneva, ACES

The adult green June beetle is $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch long, and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide. The color varies from dull brown with irregular stripes of green to uniform velvet green, the margins of the body being light brown varying to orange yellow. The underside is metallic greenish or yellow. The larva is a typical white grub, about 2 inches long when mature, easily distinguished by their habit of crawling on their backs. The larvae overwinter in the soil. Sandy soils high on humus or organic matter are preferred. In the spring they tunnel near the surface and pupate in June. The adults emerge in July and August.

Beetles gain entry into undamaged fruits by gouging with the horn on the front of the head, then feed on the flesh of the fruit. Several beetles may bury themselves entirely in a ripe peach. Their odor and excrement ruins most pieces of fruit they visit even if feeding damage is not severe. Completely dried up grape clusters are observed after June beetle feeding (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Green June beetle damage to grape clusters.
Photo image: Elina Coneva, ACES.

For control options, please refer to the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium IPM Guide:

<http://www.smallfruits.org/SmallFruitsRegGuide/index.htm>

For further reading you can refer to:

<http://www.ent.uga.edu/peach/peachhbk/insects/greenjunebeetle.pdf>

<http://www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0991/>

<http://insects.tamu.edu/fieldguide/bimg142.html>