

Beetle identification chart

Six regional examples | Eastern United States, with a Mid-Atlantic focus | Online Field Guide

Compare adult shape and markings. A beetle larva cannot be identified from an adult photograph.

1. Japanese beetle

Popillia japonica

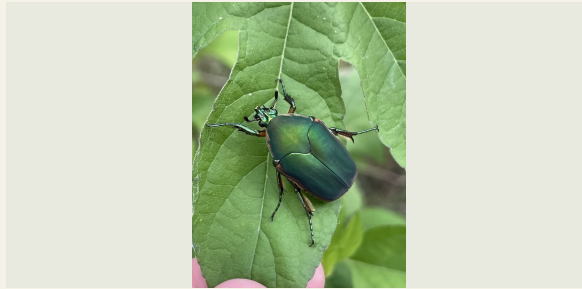


Green front; copper covers; white side tufts

Adult; dorsal view on flowers

2. Green June beetle

Cotinis nitida



Broad green beetle with pale wing-cover margins

Adult; dorsal view on leaf

3. Horned passalus

Odontotaenius disjunctus



Glossy black body; grooved covers; small head horn

Adult; oblique view on wood

4. Reddish-brown stag beetle

Lucanus capreolus



Reddish-brown oval body; strong toothed jaws

Adult male; dorsal view and curved mandibles

5. Photinus fireflies

Photinus species

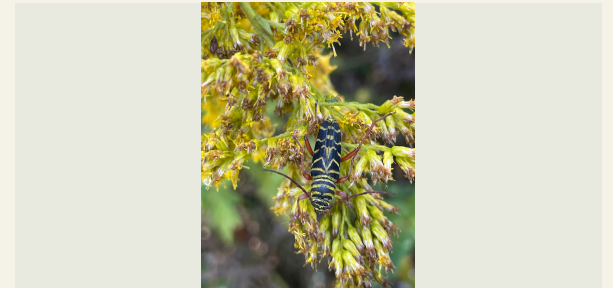


Dark soft covers; pale margins; shield behind head

Adult; dorsal view on leaf

6. Locust borer

Megacyllene robiniae



Black-and-yellow longhorn; angular yellow bands

Adult on goldenrod

1. kcthet1
2. Evelyn Lazzaletti
3. daksu; CC BY 4.0.
4. Ali Campbell; CC BY 4.0.
5. C.
6. Nathan Cobbett

Comparison notes and photo credits

Beetle chart companion | Original layout and wording by Online Field Guide

Beetle	Habitat clue	Identification level	Adult activity
Japanese beetle	Gardens, flowers, shrubs and vines	Species candidate	Early to late summer
Green June beetle	Lawns, gardens and ripening fruit	Species candidate	Summer
Horned passalus	Decaying hardwood logs	Species candidate	Warm months; sheltered adults can overwinter
Reddish-brown stag beetle	Wooded areas; sometimes attracted to lights	Stag-beetle candidate	Late spring and summer
Photinus fireflies	Grassy areas, gardens and woodland edges	Genus or family	Late spring and summer evenings
Locust borer	Goldenrod near black locust and open woodland	Species candidate	Late summer and fall

Activity is a broad regional guide. An adult can fly away from its larval habitat, and lights may attract beetles from surrounding areas. Some species-level names remain candidates until details are checked.

Photo credits and original file links

- 1. **Japanese beetle:** *Popillia japonica* - iNaturalist photo 80131938, by kcthetc1.
- 2. **Green June beetle:** *Cotinis nitida* - iNaturalist photo 427691795, by Evelyn Lazzaretti.
- 3. **Horned passalus:** *Odontotaenius disjunctus* - iNaturalist photo 656938868, by daksu. CC BY 4.0.
- 4. **Reddish-brown stag beetle:** *Lucanus capreolus* - iNaturalist photo 213821207, by Ali Campbell. CC BY 4.0.
- 5. **Photinus fireflies:** *Photinus pyralis* - iNaturalist photo 221390124, by C..
- 6. **Locust borer:** *Megacyllene robiniae* - iNaturalist photo 573309269, by Nathan Cobbett.

Identification references: Japanese beetle; Green June beetle; Horned passalus; Reddish-brown stag beetle; Photinus fireflies; Locust borer.

This chart compares regional examples; it is not a complete species key.