

Junebugs ^[1]

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June Beetle, Asheville, North Carolina. Image courtesy of Flickr

by Jerry Leath Mills, 2006user Zen Sutherland.

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Junebugs ^[3], more properly called green June beetles, are common to North Carolina and other southeastern states. The insect emerges in June and July from its larval form into an adult beetle averaging slightly less than an inch in length. A noisy flyer, the junebug is a metallic green with a dusky yellow along its sides. It feeds on pollen, ripening fruits, and a variety of leafy garden and ornamental plants.

Though hated by gardeners and farmers-the larvae are especially destructive of **tobacco** ^[4] plants-junebugs were once a source of recreation to North Carolina children, who in bygone days delighted in flying them around on kite strings fastened to the insects' sturdy legs. With several such self-propelled projectiles in flight at the same time, the string-pulling pilots staged aerial dogfights, complete with sound effects worthy of the war movies that inspired their games.

Reference:

Lorus and Margery Milne, *National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Insects and Spiders*(1995).

Image Credit:

June Beetle, Asheville, North Carolina. Image courtesy of Flickr user Zen Sutherland. Available from <https://www.flickr.com/photos/zen/808694593/> ^[2] (accessed July 18, 2012).

Additional Resources:

Green June Beetle, NCSU: http://ipm.ncsu.edu/AG271/tobacco/green_june_beetle.html ^[5]

June Beetle, Encyclopedia Britannica: <https://www.britannica.com/animal/June-beetle> ^[6]

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From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[10]

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Links

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