



Identifying heather beetle damage

Heather beetle damage is usually identified in July and August by a dramatic reddening of heather plants.



Damaged heather will usually fail to flower and close inspection will reveal that many shoots have become frayed and tatty.



Damage is often only visible once the beetle grubs have disappeared into the undergrowth to pupate, but if you notice reddening heather early enough, check for tiny (3-5mm long) brown grubs with dark banding stripes and black, very shiny heads.



As autumn progresses, badly damaged heather will turn brown and then silvery grey, looking brittle and dry.



Less seriously damaged heather will often recover if the weather is warm and mild in the autumn.

Natural recovery may be complete by the following spring, but it might also lead to stunted "lolly-pop" plants which only show patchy growth and may be of limited use to livestock and game.



For more information on heather beetle and to fill out a survey form letting us know about beetle damage, visit www.heathertrust.co.uk