

**Latin name : Melolontha
melolontha**

Size : 2.5 cm

**Lifespan : around 3 years including
a few weeks as an adult**



Cockchafer

The cockchafer is a member of the beetle family. The larvae grow to around 3 cm in length and are creamy white with touches of yellow. They eat roots, which makes them unpopular in the vegetable garden. Adults eat leaves. They tend to move only at night, as they fly more noisily and hope to outwit predators.



Once abundant throughout Europe, they could be a major pest. In fact, every 3 years or so, the number of cockchafers increases dramatically, causing severe damage to crops. They were almost eradicated in the mid-twentieth century as a result of the intensification of agriculture and were locally exterminated in many regions. Since the 1980s, with pest control becoming increasingly regulated, their numbers have started to increase again. Its larvae should not be confused with those of the ketonia, which is a useful species in the garden.

In Prussia, the larvae are dried and ground into flour to make patties for feeding young pheasants, partridges, quails and so on. In Switzerland, an oil is extracted to season salads or grease machinery.