Identifying heather beetle damage

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

![Image of reddening heather plants]

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

![Image of frayed heather shoots]

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.

![Image of beetle grubs]

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

![Image of dry, brittle heather]

Natural recovery may be complete by the following spring, but it might also lead to stunted "lolly-pop" plants which only show patchy growth for a while, although our research suggests these will improve over time.

![Image of stunted heather]

For more information on heather beetle, visit: www.heathertrust.co.uk or call us on: 01387 723 201