

Japanese Beetle and Community Gardens

Japanese Beetle and Community Gardens: How Can You Help?

Background

Japanese beetle, *Popillia japonica*, is an invasive insect which damages ornamental, horticultural and agricultural plants. The larvae feed on the roots of turf, ornamental grasses and other plants, while adults feed on the flowers, fruits and leaves of over 300 host plant species.

To reduce the risk of the beetle spreading, regulated areas (RA) and associated movement restrictions on plants and soil have been in effect in the Lower Mainland since 2017.

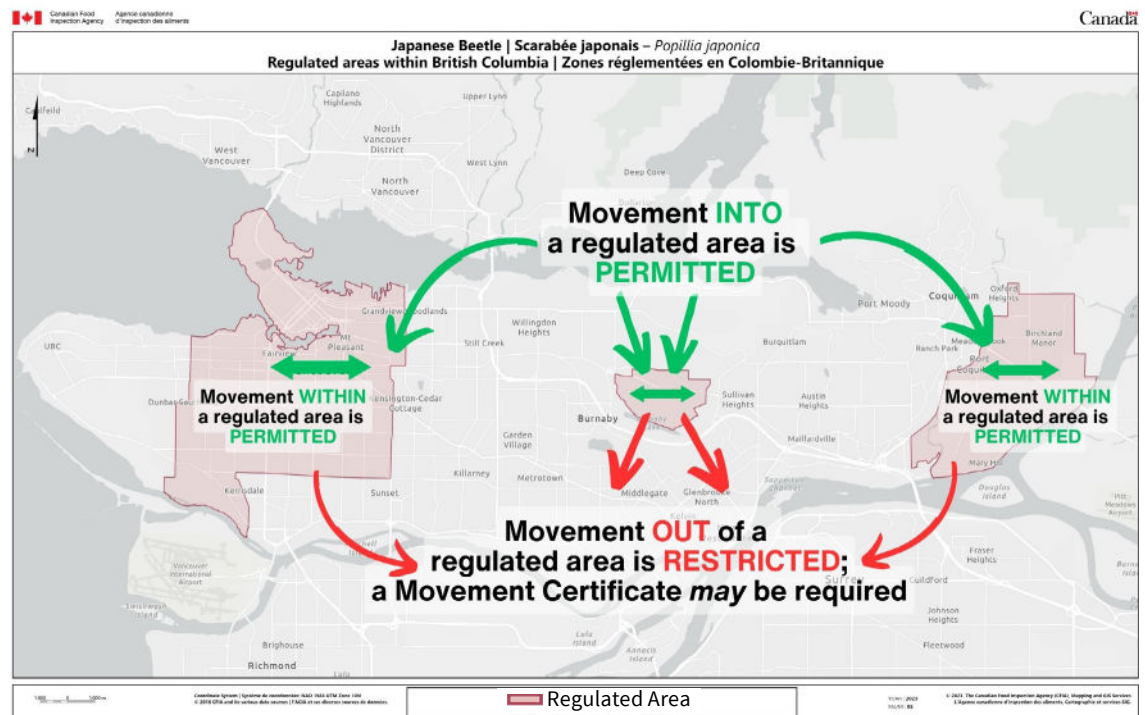
New for 2023: On May 5, Japanese beetle regulated areas were revised to include larger areas in the Cities of Burnaby and Vancouver, and a new Japanese beetle regulated area in the Cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam.

Purpose

Movement restrictions are in effect to help prevent the accidental spread of Japanese beetles by people. High-risk pathways are restricted due to the possible presence of eggs, larvae, pupae and/or adult beetles.

Movement Restrictions to Prevent the Spread of Japanese Beetle

The movement of plants with soil or soil-related matter attached is restricted year-round. To reduce the chance of spreading adult Japanese beetle or larvae, these items cannot be moved outside of a Japanese beetle regulated area, unless they are accompanied by a movement certificate that has been issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Once a movement certificate has been issued, movement of plants with soil attached may proceed.



Japanese Beetle Regulated Areas in British Columbia (CFIA)

*Movement of material within the individual regulated areas is unrestricted year-round

Community Garden Best Practices

Although there are no movement restrictions within the RA for “above-ground plant parts” (including fresh fruits and vegetables grown for consumption), there are some best practices gardeners can follow to avoid accidentally spreading this invasive pest. Fruits and vegetables grown for consumption can be moved out of the regulated area freely without restrictions. But beware—adult beetles are excellent hitchhikers and may become hidden amongst the crevices of leafy vegetation or tuck themselves into an ear of corn.

From June 15th to October 15th each year, when adult Japanese beetles are flying, give harvested produce a good shake to dislodge any hidden beetles, thoroughly wash them free of soil, and complete a good visual inspection of the fruits or vegetables prior to moving them off-site.

Common Host Plants

Japanese beetles are known to feed on over 300 species of host plant. This list includes only the most commonly attacked groups.

- » Hibiscus (*Hibiscus* spp.)
- » Raspberry, Blackberry, Salmonberry (*Rubus* spp.)
- » Linden tree (*Tilia* spp.)
- » Apple/Crab-apple (*Malus* spp.)
- » Elm (*Ulmus* spp.)
- » Bean (*Phaseolus* spp.)
- » Blueberry, Cranberry, etc. (*Vaccinium* spp.)
- » Plum, Peach, Apricot, Cherry (*Prunus* spp.)
- » Grapevine (*Vitis* spp.)
- » Oak (*Quercus* spp.)
- » Corn (*Zea mays*)
- » Rose (*Rosa* spp.)



European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, Bugwood.org



D. Mueller, Bugwood.org



Steven Katovich, Bugwood.org



Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org

Disposal Options

- » Where available, use the municipal green bins in the Cities of Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Vancouver to dispose of community garden plant waste.
- » Keep garden waste on-site for composting.
- » Do your best to remove as much of the soil as possible from root balls and other plant waste prior to disposal. Shake it before you take it!
- » Keep plants with soil or soil related-matter on-site and reuse it if possible.
- » If the options above are not possible, you must apply for a movement certificate from the CFIA before moving plants with soil or soil-related material attached out of a regulated area.

To move larger quantities of plants with soil attached from a regulated area, it must be taken to a landfill for deep burial. Contact the CFIA to obtain a movement certificate and contact a Vancouver Landfill for burial approval at least two days before your requested disposal date.



W. Pyrelli - Knotweed Roots

Find Out More

For regulatory movement requirements and movement certificate information please visit inspection.canada.ca/JB.

Report all Suspects!

If you see the lace-like feeding damage or suspect adult Japanese beetles, take high-resolution photographs. If possible, try to collect as many beetles as possible in a sealed, hard-sided container, and put them in a freezer. Contact the CFIA as soon as possible at BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca or call **604-292-5742**.

For general Japanese beetle information or to be added to our monthly e-News updates, please visit bcinvasives.ca/JB.