



# Japanese Beetle Alert

## Japanese Beetle and Yard Waste: How Can You Help?

To reduce the risk of spreading Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) in British Columbia, regulations are in effect. The movement of **plants with soil, soil-related matter, and/or growing media attached** are restricted **year-round**. A **movement certificate** issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is **required** to move these items outside of the Japanese beetle regulated areas in Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Vancouver, and Kamloops.

### What Should I Do With Yard Waste?

When possible, keep yard waste on-site or use your municipal green bin. If yard waste includes plants with soil attached that must be removed from the property, residents and landscapers should **obtain a required movement certificate** from the CFIA, secure the load and take it directly to Vancouver Landfill or Mission Flats Landfill (Kamloops) for deep burial. Check with your local landfill or contact the CFIA or visit their website for more information. [BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca) 604-292-5742

#### Best Practices:

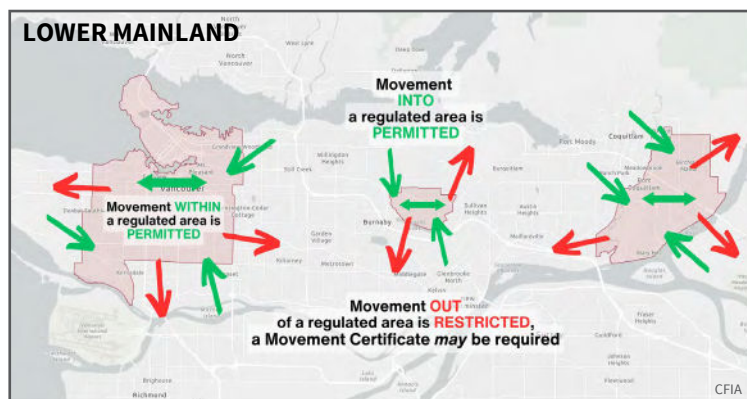
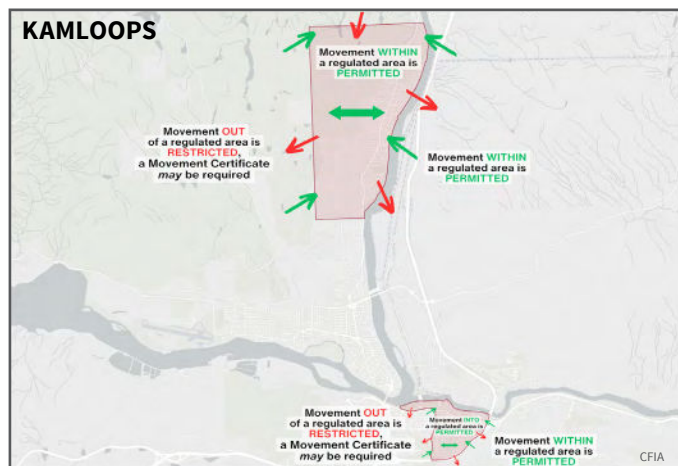
- » Leave plants with soil, soil-related matter and/or growing media attached on site and reuse it if possible
- » Remove as much of the soil as possible from yard waste prior to moving if disposal is necessary
- » Where available, use the municipal green bins to dispose of yard waste and ensure the lid is closed

### Examples of Exempt Items Not Requiring a Movement Certificate or Special Disposal

- » soil, soil-related matter, and/or growing media not attached to plants.
- » plant clippings, cuttings and trimmings when not attached to soil.
- » branches, trunks, sticks and wood with no leaves attached.\*\*
- » potted houseplants (non-commercial) which have been grown indoors within a regulated area, and have not been placed outdoors, or used as patio plants.
- » potted plants, including nursery stock and ornamental grasses, which are kept exclusively in an indoor area within the regulated area during the Japanese beetle flight period.
- » below-ground plant root systems, such as: roots, dormant bulbs, tubers, corms, or rhizomes.\*\*
- » cut flowers and decorative branches.
- » fresh fruits and vegetables for consumption.\*\*
- » compostable material which consists of **food scraps** or **green waste**, including: grass clippings, pruning waste, leaves, branches with or without leaves, dying or dead plants.\*\*
- » articles transiting through the regulated area **without stopping within a regulated area**.
- » potted plants, including ornamental grasses and nursery stock, that **enter** the regulated area on or after October 16 **and leave** a regulated area on or before June 14 of the following, consecutive year.

Please see [inspection.canada.ca/JB](https://inspection.canada.ca/JB) for the full list.

\*\*Substantially free from soil: items have been cleaned, brushed, shaken and/or washed, and the maximum size of any individual clump of soil remaining on the material is less than 12.7 mm (0.5 inches) in diameter.



# Japanese Beetle

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What yard waste is considered a risk?

Any materials from your yard or development site in the regulated areas that could transport a life stage of the beetle (e.g. eggs, larvae or adults). This includes all soil, rooted plants, bulbs or tubers with soil attached, soil under grass or sod, soil in outdoor pots, or topsoil from lawns or planting beds; growing media; humus; compost; all plants with roots.

### Why are we concerned with movement of yard waste out of the Regulated Areas?

This invasive pest is destructive to ornamental plants, turf grass and BC's horticulture and agriculture industries. The movement of any yard waste out of the regulated areas increases the risk of the beetle being transported to uninfested locations in the province. Eradication efforts could be undermined by unrestricted movement of infested green waste and soil and beetle spread could negatively impact nurseries, farms and other industries in BC.

### What is a "Regulated Area"?

A "Regulated Area" is an area where plants with soil, soil-related matter, and/or growing media attached are subject to regulations and procedures to prevent or limit the movement into, within or from that area, so quarantine pests, such as the Japanese beetle cannot spread or be introduced to new areas. Currently, there is a Japanese beetle regulated area in Cities of Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Vancouver, and Kamloops.

### What are the consequences for not obeying the regulations?

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has the legal authority under the *Plant Protection Act and Regulations* to take action when issues of non-compliance with the movement requirements for Japanese beetle are observed. Any person or business who violates the restrictions may be subject to fines and/or liable to prosecution.

### What do I tell my landscaper to do with yard waste if they happen to be unfamiliar with the movement restrictions?

Any plants with soil, soil-related matter, and/or growing media attached that cannot remain on site or does not fit in the municipal green bin should be safely secured and taken to a landfill for deep burial. Contact your local landfill or the CFIA for more information.

[BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca)  
604-292-5742

Visit [inspection.canada.ca/JB](https://inspection.canada.ca/JB) to **apply for a Movement Certificate** and receive up-to-date information regarding movement restrictions and the Japanese beetle response.

## How the Japanese beetle spreads

Summer is the riskiest time to accidentally transport Japanese beetle among yard waste. The adult flight period occurs from **June 15 to October 15** when temperatures are  $> 21^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



Larva

actual size 1" length  
D. Cappaert, Bugwood.org



Adult

actual size 3/8" width  
D. Holden, CFIA

**Japanese beetle larvae can be found in sod, top soil, on roots and in potted plants.** They feed on roots of grasses, severely damaging the plants. Japanese beetle larvae overwinter 4"-8" below the surface.



**Adults are present from Jun 15 – Oct 15**

**Yard waste can move beetles and eggs. Where possible, leave yard waste on site.** Adults feed on leaves, buds, and flowers of many common garden and landscape plants. Adult females commonly lay their eggs in well watered lawns.



## Find Out More

For more information or to be added to our Japanese beetle e-News, please visit [bcinvasives.ca/JB](https://bcinvasives.ca/JB)