

## Japanese Beetle in BC: 2022 Update

The Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*), an insect native to Japan, was introduced to eastern North America in 1916. It has since become established as an invasive, regulated pest due to its aggressive feeding habits that impact the agriculture and horticultural industries. The adult beetle feeds on the foliage of over 300 species of plants including roses, fruits, and vegetables, while the larvae feed heavily on the roots of turf grass. The beetle was first detected in downtown Vancouver's False Creek area in July 2017. Collaborative partnerships to prevent its impacts and spread were formed between multiple agencies including the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), the City of Vancouver, the City of Burnaby, the City of Port Coquitlam, the BC Landscape and Nursery Association, and the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC).



D. Holden, CFIA

As part of the collaborative response to the detection of the Japanese beetle in Vancouver, a [regulated area \(RA\)](#) was established restricting the seasonal movement of soil, plants, and plant parts. Soil and above-ground plant parts are restricted during the adult flight period from June 15-October 15 each year, and soil is restricted year-round. A [revised RA](#) came into effect in March 2022 that includes the City of Burnaby and an extension to the RA in Vancouver. It is important for the public and industry not to move [regulated articles](#) outside of an RA. If movement of regulated articles is necessary, a [movement certificate](#) may be required to do so. The CFIA has created a new [interactive map](#) where individuals can search their postal code to identify whether they are in a Japanese beetle RA.

Adult beetles will begin to emerge when temperatures are consistently over 21° and although moving vegetables and fruit are not restricted, there are some best practices for gardeners to avoid accidental spread. For instance, adult beetles are excellent hitchhikers, and they can secure themselves in flowers or even corn husks. Be sure to wash, shake and inspect any

harvested produce to help dislodge hidden beetles before removing goods offsite between June 15<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup> each year. If you see any of the lacelike feeding damage or suspected adult Japanese beetles, capture them, take high-resolution photographs, and email them to the CFIA along with your location and contact information ([BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca)). You can also report suspect beetles using the Report Invasives App, available on iPhone and Android.



N. Wong, ISCBC

This season, the [Vancouver South Transfer Station](#) and the [Burnaby Eco Centre](#) are the only sites that will accept regulated articles. Since both of these sites are located out of a regulated area, individuals and industry will need to show their movement certificates upon arrival from a regulated area. When possible, keep yard waste on-site until after the adult flight period (June 15<sup>th</sup> - October 15<sup>th</sup>) or use a municipal green bin for disposal. A movement certificate is required if landscapers or residents need to move yard waste off site.

The treatment of public and private property has taken place earlier this season to manage the Japanese beetle. This year surveillance efforts have increased primarily in the Lower Mainland to regularly check for the presence of Japanese beetle. The CFIA's 2021 trap surveillance recorded a 64% decrease in Japanese beetle detections from 2020 with 79 beetles found in 45 traps. This follows an 82-86% annual reduction in Japanese beetle detections since 2019, highlighting the progress and success of the eradication response to date. Final survey results for 2022 will be available in the fall after all traps are collected.

For more Japanese beetle information and to find links to program partners, please visit the ISCBC [website](#) and stay up to date with the latest Japanese beetle information by signing up for the Japanese beetle e-newsletter. Be sure to read the [Japanese Beetle Yard Waste Factsheet](#), [Japanese Beetle and Community Gardens Factsheet](#), and [Japanese Beetle Look-Alikes Factsheet](#) for more information.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Diane Watson, 2022 ISCBC

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