



## Japanese Beetle: Shipping Pathway & Compliance Update Frequently Asked Questions

### What is Japanese beetle and what does it look like??

Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) is considered a significant pest of over 300 species of high value ornamental and agricultural crops, including roses, blueberries, grapevines, turf grass and nursery stock. It is an invasive beetle native to Japan that is considered invasive in North America and Europe. The Japanese beetle has several unique features that make it different from other insects in Oregon and the western United States. The Oregon Department of Agriculture has a [Japanese beetle look-alike guide \(ODA\)](#) to tell the difference between the adult Japanese beetle and similar insects. Additional resources on the pest and its identification may be found under 'Resources' at the end of this FAQ.

### Where is Japanese beetle found?

Outside of its native Japan, Japanese beetle is found in China, Russia, Portugal, Canada and the United States (CABI 2009). It was first detected in the U.S. in 1916 and has spread to most states east of the Mississippi River other than Florida, plus Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. More recently there have been detections in western states including Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Colorado and California.

### What are the primary and secondary plant hosts?

Japanese beetle can feed on over 300 species of plants. The list below is not meant to be comprehensive:

Primary hosts: *Acer* (maple), *Asparagus officinalis* (asparagus), *Glycine max* (soybean), *Malus* (ornamental species apple), *Prunus* (stone fruits, including plums, peaches), *Rheum hybridum* (rhubarb), *Rosa* (rose), *Rubus* (blackberry, raspberry), *Tilia* (lime), *Ulmus* (elms), *Vitis* (grapes, and *Zea* (corn).

Secondary hosts: *Aesculus* (buckeye), *Althaea* (hollyhock), *Betula* (birche), *Castanea* (chestnut), *Hibiscus* (rose mallow), *Juglans nigra* (American walnut), *Platanus* (planes), *Populus* (poplar), *Salix* (willow), *Sassafras albidum* (common sassafras), *Sorbus americana* (American mountain ash), and turf grasses.

Wild hosts: *Lagerstroemia indica* (crepe myrtle), *Polygonum* (knotweed/smartweed).

### What are the generally accepted treatment methods?

Chemical, biological and cultural controls can be effective. Pesticides are the most widely accepted method for control and have proven efficacy. Options can include drip, drench, media incorporation, and complete fumigation. For details, refer to the [U.S. Domestic Japanese beetle Harmonization Plan](#).



### **Does the United States have a quarantine against Japanese beetle?**

USDA APHIS PPQ (USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection Quarantine) holds a quarantine to prevent the human-assisted spread of the pest, particularly by aircraft. The federal rule does not regulate the interstate movement of plant products. The full federal rule can be viewed [here](#) (Adopted 1979. Redesignated 2019. Last verified as up to date on September 26, 2025).

### **Does Oregon have a quarantine against the Japanese beetle (JB)?**

Since 2018 Oregon has maintained a quarantine against JB. The quarantine requires plant imports to meet high phytosanitary standards to prevent the pest from coming into the state via infested nursery stock. The quarantine also requires mitigation measures for any site found to be infested with JB. The full quarantine language can be viewed [here](#).

### **Does Oregon plan to keep its Japanese beetle quarantine?**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will uphold the JB quarantine for Oregon until the pest has become widely established. To date, JB is only known to exist in Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas counties. The largest population being within an urban neighborhood of Washington County.

### **Where in Oregon has the Japanese Beetle been found most recently?**

This [map](#), maintained by ODA, shows where the beetle was detected in 2024 (represented by dots), as well as the treatment area boundaries for 2025 (represented by blue boundary lines). All locations are limited to the Portland metropolitan area, inside the Metro Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

### **Has the pest been found recently on nursery sites?**

None of the known infestations in the most recent surveys were within prime nursery production areas of Oregon. All infestations were found in urban areas.

### **What types of nursery stock material could potentially transmit Japanese beetle?**

Bare root material, that is free of soil or growing media, cannot transmit the pest as there is nowhere for the insects or grubs to hide. It would not be subject to restrictions. Container and B&B material can conceal the pest in soil or growing media and is more vulnerable.



**Has Oregon made any attempt to eradicate Japanese beetle from the state?**

Since 2017, the ODA executed a Japanese beetle program aimed at controlling known beetle populations and conducting a statewide surveillance program to monitor for novel introductions. Since it began, Oregon has seen a 92% reduction in the JB population. ODA reports a total catch of 1, 919 adult beetles in this past 2025 season which reflects a 65% decrease from 2024. Evidence that the consistent trapping and treatment program within infested counties is working. However, it ended in 2025 due to lack of funding in the state budget as presented by Gov. Tina Kotek. The OAN lobbied the Oregon legislature to pass funding, but this was unsuccessful.

**What does this demonstrate about the state's priorities for invasive pests?**

The ODA's commitment to healthy plants and a high standard of mitigation and eradication is not in question. The eradication program was making significant progress but did not receive funding in the governor's recommended budget.

**In the short term, what issues does this create for the shipping of nursery material?**

In the absence of a full JB program, which includes statewide surveillance and treatment/trapping functions, Oregon will no longer be recognized as managing its JB populations and will be at risk of losing its pest-free status. Western states that are considered free of JB, will impose their Japanese beetle quarantine requirements on Oregon nursery stock. This will require growers to trap, treat or otherwise prevent/contain JB infestations on their properties and within their nursery stock inventories.

**Can I continue to ship my container/B&B material this fall and winter as done in previous years?**

Based on 2025 ODA activities, shipping of nursery stock from Oregon may continue as usual through the winter. The ODA completed statewide survey, trapping and treatment operations over the 2025 season, and anticipates restrictions to being in spring 2026. In preparation for 2026, the ODA is actively communicating with state plant pest regulatory officials of other states to determine exact dates as to when JB certification measures will change.