



JAPANESE BEETLE AND NURSERIES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is Japanese beetle?

The Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) is a serious invasive insect pest that poses a significant threat to Oregon and the western United States. They can cause extensive damage to nurseries, seedbeds, orchards, field crops, landscape plants, and home gardens. Adult beetles skeletonize leaves, feed heavily on flowers, and consume developing fruits. Damage usually begins in the upper canopy, and heavily infested trees or shrubs may turn brown or become partially defoliated.

They are known to feed on more than 300 plant species, including common crops and ornamentals such as **roses, blueberries, grape vines**, fruit trees, and many garden vegetables. Japanese beetle grubs live in the soil and primarily feed on the roots of turf grass and ornamental plants. They can also attack the roots of garden and field crops such as **corn, beans, tomatoes, strawberries, blueberries, and grapes**. When grub populations become dense, they can kill large areas of turf and seriously weaken or kill other plants.

For more information about their lifecycle, please see the Oregon Department of Agriculture's [Insect Pest Prevention and Management](#) webpage about [Japanese beetle](#).

Where in Oregon has the Japanese beetle been found?

In recent years, Oregon has experienced **three separate detections**:

- **Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah Counties**

Cedar Mill, Bonny Slope, Oak Hills, Bethany, Raleigh Hills, Cedar Hills, and Orenco.

This is the largest and most widespread Japanese beetle infestation recorded in Oregon. It was first identified in 2016 and later expanded into parts of Multnomah and Clackamas counties. These areas have been part of an eradication program with annual treatments reducing the population between 2017 and 2025. In 2025 less than 2,000 total adult beetles were detected.

- **Oakland, Oregon (Douglas County)**

A small population of 10 beetles was detected in 2017. By 2020, no beetles were found, and the population was considered eradicated. This introduction was likely caused by a potted plant transported from an infested region.

- **Portland International Airport (PDX)**

PDX presents a continual risk due to cargo arriving from Japanese beetle-infested states. The area was treated annually through 2025 to prevent beetles from spreading. For more than 40 years, ODA's ongoing monitoring and rapid response have successfully prevented airport detections from spreading.

This [map](#), maintained by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, shows all locations where Japanese beetles were detected in 2024 (marked with dots). It also outlines the designated 2025 treatment area boundaries (shown with blue lines).

How are plant shipments impacted by Japanese Beetle?

Both the adult beetles and their grubs cause extensive damage in the eastern U.S., where they are well established. To protect the environment, agriculture, and landscapes, several states maintain quarantines that regulate the import of certain plants and soil from infested states. These quarantines are an important tool for preventing Japanese beetles from entering and spreading within non-infested states.

When nurseries from states with Japanese Beetle want to ship plants to a non-infested or highly regulated state, they must follow strict protocols to gain the state certifications needed to ship. Historically, Oregon nurseries have not had to navigate these protocols since Oregon was designated as a pest-free state.

What has changed in Oregon?

For the past several biennia, Oregon's Japanese beetle eradication efforts have been funded through one-time allocations from the Oregon Legislature, using General Fund or Lottery Fund dollars outside of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's base budget. During the 2025 legislative session, the bill that would have continued this funding did not pass, and the final end-of-session budget package did not include resources for the program.



Because no funding was approved for the next biennium, the Oregon Department of Agriculture will not be able to continue Japanese beetle eradication operations in 2026.

How does this affect me?

Without a funded Japanese beetle program, which includes statewide trapping, surveillance, and treatment, Oregon will no longer be recognized as actively managing Japanese beetle populations. As a result, Oregon is at risk of losing its pest-free status. When this happens, other Western states that are currently considered free of Japanese beetle will apply their quarantine requirements to plants shipped from Oregon. Most Oregon nurseries that ship to pest-free states (defined below) will have to enter into a Compliance Agreement with the ODA to be eligible for state certification of these shipments. These measures are intended to prevent the spread of Japanese beetle into unaffected states and protect agricultural and natural resources across the region.

What are the requirements to ship to other states?

The **U.S. Domestic Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan (JBHP)** helps prevent the spread of Japanese Beetle through the movement of nursery stock and other regulated materials. It was developed by the National Plant Board (NPB) as a framework to protect uninfested states, while providing shippers with consistent certification requirements. The JBHP is not a federal quarantine and does not override individual state regulations.

The JBHP divides states into four categories, depending on their regulatory status for JB.

- Category 1 (Cat 1) – Uninfested and JB is regulated.
- Category 2 (Cat 2) – Uninfested or partially infested.
- Category 3 (Cat 3) – Partially or generally infested.
- Category 4 (Cat 4) – Pest is unlikely to establish/ not known to be infested.

This document is meant only to be a high-level summary of the requirements.
For details, please refer to the [U.S. Domestic Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan](#).

While Oregon has historically be classified as a Cat 1 state, in the absence of a state Japanese beetle program, Oregon will likely be re-classified as Cat 2 or 3. This is pending final



determination by the NPB, and the ODA is actively working with the NPB to expedite the evaluation process.

Oregon nurseries shipping **plants with roots, soil, or growing media to Category 1 or 2 states/areas** must follow strict production and certification standards to protect pest-free regions. **Regulated articles are subject to phytosanitary measures to meet import requirements of receiving states.** Whether a receiving state is Category 1 or 2, will dictate the exact requirements. These nurseries must have a Compliance Agreement with the ODA to be eligible for certification.

Where Can I Learn About Shipping Requirements?

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has prepared a general summary ([linked here](#)) outlining the requirements for shipping nursery stock. This document explains the available options for meeting the shipping categories described in the [Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan \(JBHP\)](#). Certification eligibility includes a range of options, such as pesticide treatments, bareroot plants, production in an approved screenhouse, plant size restrictions, and trapping the nursery for Japanese Beetle. If you need assistance determining which options apply to your nursery or have questions about the process, please contact your local ODA nursery inspector or reach out directly to the ODA Nursery Program. We are here to help guide you through the requirements and ensure your shipments meet all necessary standards.

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