



## Options for Retailers situated in a Japanese beetle regulated area who intend to sell plants to customers that may remove them from a Japanese beetle regulated area

Under [Section 7.2](#) of the [Guidance for the movement of plants with soil or soil-related matter attached that are leaving a Japanese beetle regulated area located within British Columbia](#), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has outlined four options for any retailer who is located within a [regulated area](#), and wishes to sell potted plants with soil or growing media to customers who may be taking the plants or soil outside of a regulated area. The retailer must operate under one of the following four options listed below to reduce the risk of spreading Japanese beetle.

### Option 1:

If retail plants are **kept exclusively in a closed indoor area during the Japanese beetle flight period** (June 15 – October 15), then those plants can move outside of a regulated area and **no movement certificate is required**.

### Option 2:

If retail plants have undergone a **regulatory treatment**, as per [Section 5.3 of D-96-15](#), and a **movement certificate has been obtained** by the retailer, then those plants can move outside of a regulated area.

### Option 3:

If retail plants were produced in compliance with the **Japanese beetle Pest-free Greenhouse / Screenhouse Program**, as per [Annex 1 of D-96-15](#), and a **movement certificate has been obtained** by the retailer, then those plants can move outside of a regulated area.

### Option 4:

If a retail plant entered the regulated area after October 16<sup>th</sup> of the previous year (after the flight period of the adult Japanese beetle is done), and it is not a grass (family *Poaceae*)\*, then the plant can be sold and moved by a customer outside of a regulated area under the following conditions:

- a. the CFIA has **issued a regulatory notice** to you, the retailer, which requires you, the retailer, to:
  1. **display CFIA-issued signage** that educates your customers about Japanese beetle and the regulated area (includes a map of the regulated area);



2. **inspect the plant** for Japanese beetle prior to the plant leaving the store;
3. **allow the CFIA to place a Japanese beetle trap within your premises** during the adult Japanese beetle flight season (June 15 to October 15 annually), and provide access to the trap throughout the adult Japanese beetle flight season, so a CFIA inspector can check and maintain the trap as needed.

- b. the CFIA has confirmed you, the retailer, are compliant with the regulatory notice requirements listed above in option 4.a, and subsequently **issued a movement certificate** to you, the retailer. The customer will not be required to complete any further action.

**\*Note:** Grass (family *Poaceae*) poses a significant risk as a potential host plant for Japanese beetle. Whenever possible, retailers should encourage their customers not to purchase and remove members of the grass family *Poaceae* from a regulated area. Retailers should work with customers to educate them on the risk and find alternatives, if moving outside of the regulated area.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### About Japanese beetle

#### 1. What does a Japanese beetle look like?

Japanese beetles are very distinctive in appearance. They are oval shaped when looked at from above and are approx. 10 mm long and 6 mm wide. The head and thorax of the Japanese beetle are a metallic green colour, while the wing coverings are a metallic copper-brown colour. A distinguishing feature of adult Japanese beetles are the six tufts of white hair found along each side and rear of the abdomen.



#### 2. How do I recognize signs and symptoms of Japanese beetle feeding damage on a plant?

Signs of Japanese beetle feeding damage include lacy, skeletonized leaves or large, irregularly shaped sections that have been chewed out of flowers and blossoms.

#### 3. What do Japanese beetles eat?

Japanese beetle larvae prefer to feed on the roots of turf grass, but will feed on the roots of other plants as well.



The adults are heavy feeders and are known to attack the foliage and fruit of more than 300 plants including ornamentals, nursery stock, tree fruit, small fruit and field crops. Roses and *Persicaria amplexicollis* (bistort, mountain fleece) are known “favourites”.

## Selecting an Option

### 1. How do I select an option?

Please assess the options provided against your business model and select the option which will work best for your operations. Inform the CFIA of your preferred option by phone at 604-292-5742 or by email at [BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca). The CFIA will work with you to ensure your preferred option can be implemented to appropriately mitigate the risk of spreading Japanese beetle.

### 2. What if none of the options work for my operation?

The CFIA recognizes that individual operations may have unique circumstances or business models. Please contact the CFIA for a case-by-case assessment to determine how options can be applied to your operation.

### 3. Will the CFIA be providing compensation to retailers to implement the option selected?

No, the CFIA is not responsible for any additional costs incurred as a result of the Japanese beetle regulatory compliance actions.

## Questions related to Option 1 (keep indoors)

### 1. Is the CFIA going to pay for me to enclose my outdoor garden centre?

No, the CFIA is not going to provide funding to enclose any outdoor garden centre areas.

### 2. How do you define “closed indoor area”?

A “closed indoor area” is an area inside of a building where all of the space between the floor and ceiling is enclosed by walls or windows, and the windows and doors are generally kept closed. If you are unsure whether your facility meets this requirement or if you have other questions related to this requirement, please contact us by phone at 604-292-5742 or by email at [BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca).

### 3. Are perimeter screens sufficient?



No, perimeter screens are not sufficient for this option. Screened areas may be permissible under Option 3 (greenhouse/screenhouse) and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Please contact us by phone at 604-292-5742 or by email at [BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca) to discuss further.

## Questions related to Option 2 (regulatory treatment)

### 1. What are “regulatory treatments”?

As per [section 5.3](#) of the **Phytosanitary Requirements to Prevent the Spread of Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica*, in Canada and the United States (D-96-15)**, pesticide drenches or dips may be used as a certification option for plants with soil, provided that the rootballs do not exceed specific size restrictions. Plants must be protected against future infestation by Japanese beetle adults and larvae following treatment.

In Canada, regulated articles may only be treated with pest control products that are registered by the [Pest Management Regulatory Agency \(PMRA\)](#) and recognized as effective regulatory treatments against Japanese beetle. For guidance on product use, contact the PMRA or your provincial agriculture department. Pesticide application records associated with regulatory treatments to control Japanese beetle must be kept for a minimum of five years and must be made available to the CFIA upon request.

### 2. Will the CFIA be paying for treatment on my plants?

No. It is the responsibility of the retailer to pay for any treatment options available.

### 3. Can I get the City or Province to pay for treatment, especially if they are treating public and private lands?

At this time, the CFIA is not aware of treatment programs for retailers offered by the Cities of Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Vancouver or the Province of BC.

### 4. What about nematodes or other products that might be effective in getting rid of JB? Does the CFIA recognize the use of these products?

Only PMRA-registered pest control products which are recognized as effective regulatory treatments against Japanese beetle are accepted by the CFIA.

Nematodes and other products are an important Integrated Pest Management tool. Proactive turf grass treatments are encouraged, but do not replace treatments ordered by the Province of BC.

## Questions related to Option 3 (greenhouse/screenhouse)

### 1. How do I know if my facility is eligible for the Japanese Beetle Pest-Free Greenhouse/Screenhouse Program?



[Annex 1 of D-96-15: Phytosanitary Requirements to Prevent the Spread of Japanese Beetle, \*Popillia japonica\*, in Canada and the United States](#) outlines the criteria required in order for retailers to meet this option. Expected actions include: the development and implementation of a Japanese Beetle Management Plan (JBMP), specific instructions on the construction and maintenance of a greenhouse/screenhouse, instructions related to soil and plant material, and more. The directive can be accessed on the CFIA's Japanese beetle webpage.

## Questions related to Option 4 (regulatory notice/sign/inspection/trapping)

### 1. How do I get a sign for my store?

Once you have contacted the CFIA and mutually determined that Option 4 is the most suitable for your facility, the CFIA will email you a sign which can be printed and displayed in-store.

### 2. Is the CFIA going to provide training to my staff on how to inspect plants for signs of Japanese beetle?

Photos showing how to identify Japanese beetle and the feeding damage it causes are available on the [CFIA's website](#). Upon request, the CFIA can provide you with wallet-sized pest cards or fact sheets about Japanese beetle, and virtual or in-person training may be arranged if your staff is interested in learning more. Please contact the CFIA by email at [BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca)

### 3. Do I need to get my staff to inspect every single plant in my store?

No, that is not necessary, however, if you are implementing Option 4 in your store, you should ask every customer whether they will be taking the plant(s) outside of the regulated area. If they indicate, yes, then every plant that will be leaving the regulated area, should be inspected for signs of Japanese beetle. Additionally, under Option 4, a Japanese beetle trap will be placed on your premises and monitored by the CFIA.

### 4. What do we do if my staff finds a Japanese beetle or sees feeding damage which may have been caused by Japanese beetle?

If Japanese beetle is found or suspected, please call the CFIA immediately at 604-292-5742 and we will dispatch an inspector to follow up.

Please do not allow the impacted plant(s) to leave your store until you have spoken to a CFIA inspector. Find and inspect an alternative plant for your customer.



If possible, please place the suspect beetle(s) into a hard-sided, sealable container, and take multiple photos of the insect under good light. Photos should be clear, high-resolution (if possible) and close-up to the suspect beetle(s). Once photos have been taken, please label the container and place it in the fridge. Please do not transport the specimen(s) outside of regulated area.

#### **5. Where are you going to put a Japanese beetle trap in my store?**

A CFIA inspector will make arrangements to visit your store and assess the best location for the trap based on a number of factors, such as Japanese beetle biology, the host plant distribution in your store, ease of access, the proximity to high foot traffic areas, and more.

#### **6. How often will CFIA inspectors be in my store to check the trap?**

Trap check frequency will depend on your proximity to known detections of Japanese beetle and can range from once per week to once every three weeks.

#### **7. Should I or my staff be checking the trap?**

There is no need to check the trap. A CFIA inspector will check the trap as part of their routine activities. The trap provides important data and should be safe-guarded against inadvertent tampering by staff and the public.

#### **8. Why are the requirements for grasses different?**

Grass (family *Poaceae*) poses a significant risk as a potential host plant for Japanese beetle. Members of the family *Poaceae* include grasses such as: Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass, tall fescues and bentgrass, and are both a food source and an ideal plant where female beetles may lay their eggs. Whenever possible, retailers should encourage their customers not to purchase and remove members of the grass family *Poaceae* from a regulated area. Retailers should work with customers to educate them on the risk and find alternatives, if moving outside of the regulated area.

#### **9. How or when can we sell grass?**

Grasses (family *Poaceae*) can be sold and moved **within** a regulated area at any time.

Whenever possible, grasses should not leave the regulated area. Retailers should work with customers to educate them on the associated risks and find alternatives, to prevent the potential spread of Japanese beetle to areas outside of a regulated area.

#### **10. Should I be recording where my customers take their plants?**



At this time, there is no requirement to track where purchased plants will be taken. If your point-of-sale system already records this information, you may continue to do so.

**11. I am a plant retailer in the original regulated area in Vancouver, why are you just now contacting me about actions to take, if the Japanese beetle was found in 2017?**

Since 2017, the CFIA and other members of the Japanese beetle response have been conducting risk-assessments based on data obtained during annual surveillance activities. The CFIA and other key members of the Japanese beetle response, have consistently performed outreach to all identified plant retailers within the regulated area each year, and provided information, such as pamphlets and pest identification cards, along with educational opportunities for staff and store patrons. The CFIA has worked with the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) to contact and provide shelf signs to retailers who sell Japanese beetle traps to encourage customers who purchase the traps to report all beetles caught.

As the number of beetles present in BC has gone down, the investment in the eradication program has grown. The response has evolved to identify potential movement pathways for the beetles to protect the nursery, landscape, retail and agricultural industries, prevent the need for further regulatory actions, and ultimately reach the goal of keeping BC Japanese beetle free.

The CFIA is contacting retailers to ensure there is industry and public awareness about the current, recently expanded regulated areas, which will assist in preventing the spread of this potentially devastating pest.

**12. How long is a Movement Certificate valid for?**

Movement Certificates are issued on a case-by-case basis and the period of validity will be indicated on the Movement Certificate. A Movement Certificate can be valid anywhere between two weeks to 12 months from the date of issuance, and will depend on how and why you are moving regulated articles. Typically, Movement Certificates issued to plant retailers will be valid for the duration of the current Japanese beetle flight period. If different time frame is required, please contact to CFIA to discuss.

**13. How long will the regulatory notice requiring signage and inspection be in effect?  
How often do I have to re-new my regulatory notice?**

When the CFIA issues a regulatory notice, it will indicate how long the notice is in effect and under what conditions it may be removed. The regulatory notice which is issued to a retailer will generally be in effect for the duration of the current Japanese beetle flight period within the current calendar year. A new notice must be obtained before June 15 each



calendar year until further notice from the CFIA or otherwise stated on the regulatory notice. Visit [inspection.canada.ca/jb](https://inspection.canada.ca/jb) for updates to the Japanese beetle response in BC.

#### 14. What if I want to switch options?

Contact the CFIA, as soon as possible, and before making any changes, to discuss further.

#### Responsibility

##### 1. Doesn't the responsibility fall on the customers to keep the plants inside the regulated? Why am I being asked to assist with the response? Why do I need a Movement Certificate instead of my customers?

The responsibility for ensuring compliance with regulations falls on a number of stakeholders. The CFIA is seeking cooperation and compliance from retailers to help protect the horticultural and agricultural industries from the potentially devastating economic losses which could occur if Japanese beetle is allowed to spread in BC. In assessing the possible risk against the amount of resources which would likely be required by both the retail industry and the CFIA to monitor every single plant purchased within the regulated areas in BC, it was determined that the current options provided present the most effective and efficient method of preventing the spread of Japanese beetle. As a business that sells regulated articles within an infested area, it is important that you enable your customers to comply as well.

##### 2. Isn't it the CFIA's responsibility to inspect the plants?

The CFIA is conducting enhanced surveillance to monitor for Japanese beetle across British Columbia. Given the large number of plant retailers and gardens throughout Metro Vancouver, the CFIA trusts that it is everyone's responsibility to inspect the plants to prevent further spread of Japanese beetle and protect Canadian industries from the damage this pest can cause. When a beetle sighting or detection is reported, the CFIA will dispatch an inspector to follow-up.

#### Training and Outreach Materials

##### 1. Do you have outreach material we can display and/or hand-out in our store(s)?

Yes, the CFIA has outreach material available in the form of wallet cards and pamphlets which can be provided to you free-of-charge. Additional resources are available from other members of the Japanese beetle response including the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) and the BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA). Please contact the CFIA [by email](#) for more information.



## 2. What are you doing to reach my customers and educate them?

The CFIA, along with the Province of BC, municipalities, and other concerned stakeholders are actively conducting outreach to the public and members of industry in an effort to spread awareness about Japanese beetle.

Examples of the outreach taking place include:

- distribution of information via Canada Post, on municipal apps and websites, at designated transfer stations and approved disposal sites, etc.;
- social media campaigns;
- signage;
- info bulletins;
- outreach through school programs;
- information sessions for the landscaping industry and gardening clubs; and
- more