



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Agriculture and Food

KELLY PEHRSON
Commissioner

ROBERT HOUGAARD
Director, Plant Industry

Insect Infestation Emergency Declaration

Whereas, the invasive pest Japanese beetle *Popillia japonica* (Newman) poses a serious threat to Utah's nursery industry and its establishment would result in increased costs due to changes in pest management practices and the imposition of quarantine restrictions on the state's growers by other non-infested states.

Whereas, this exotic pest is a defoliator of various genera of fruit and berry crops and will result in decreased yields and increased costs to commercial growers of these plants.

Whereas, this beetle is a voracious pest of various ornamental and vegetable plants and its presence will make raising such plants more difficult for the professional and residential grower alike.

Whereas, the Japanese beetle larvae is a severe pest of turf grass and its presence would result in diminished quality of untreated turf in municipal parks, golf courses, athletic fields and residential landscapes.

Whereas, pesticide use and the financial expenditures and environmental costs associated with the application of such products will significantly increase if Japanese beetle were to become established in the state.

Whereas, annual surveillance has revealed that the Japanese beetle is not found in 27 counties in the state and the insect's presence in Salt Lake and Davis counties is thought to be restricted to small areas.

Whereas, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has been successful in eradicating numerous pests from the state in the past and has determined that this recent Japanese beetle introduction can be eliminated if eradication efforts are made quickly.

Whereas, it is the conclusion of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and the Japanese Beetle Decision and Action Committee that the state is responsible, by law, to take swift and appropriate action to eliminate the presence of this pest.

Therefore, I, Kelly Pehrson, Commissioner of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, with the consent of the Governor of Utah, Gary R. Herbert, declare an Insect Infestation Emergency under Title 4, Chapter 35, Section 104 of the Utah Agricultural Code. This action shall set in motion the eradication plan put forward by the department with the intent of alleviating the emergency condition.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Pehrson".

Kelly Pehrson, Commissioner