Japanese beetle (JB) *Popillia japonica* (Newman) is an invasive insect first detected in the United States (U.S.) in 1920; it infests most states east of Utah.

Larvae are severe pests of turf and adults feed on the foliage of over 300 host plants. These include popular fruit, vegetable and ornamental plants.

Infested states annually spend $460 million on JB damage.¹ Because Utah is uninfested, Utahns do not have to bear any of these costs.

In 2021, UDAF conducted pesticide applications on 210 acres of land in Davis County to eliminate a beetle population found in 2020. Trapping later in the year revealed that eradication efforts were highly effective and resulted in a 76% decrease in captures from the previous year.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) has declared a Plant Pest Emergency and is continuing eradication efforts so that JB does not become established in your area and spread to the rest of the state.

A treatment will be applied to irrigated turf on your property at no charge.

This informational document provides details of the eradication and explains your responsibilities. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

**Background**

UDAF monitors for invasive insects statewide. These pests cause significant damage to agricultural industries, managed landscapes, parks, gardens and natural resources. When they become established, production costs and pesticide use increase. JB is a destructive, invasive pest that is not established in Utah. UDAF monitors via trapping in Centerville and Kaysville. This was a substantial decrease in captures from the year before and indicates that the eradication efforts are working. UDAF has declared a Plant Pest Emergency per UCA § 4-35-101 et. seq. and devised an eradication plan to ensure JB does not establish.

**Results of Inaction**

The quality of plants around the state and on your property will decline. Pesticide use will increase and keeping plants healthy will become more expensive. A recent economic impact analysis determined that if the JB population is allowed to grow and establish, under the most likely damage scenario, Utah would suffer a cumulative cost of $234 million dollars worth of turf injury and $1.6 million dollars in corn losses by the year 2027.² These costs would fall on the state’s farmers, landscape and park managers, golf courses, cities and residents like you.

---


---

**CITATIONS & PHOTO CREDITS**


Photo 1: David Cappaert, Bugwood.org  
Photo 2: Jon Yuschock, Bugwood.org
Response plan

UDAF will contract a licensed commercial pest control operator to apply a larvicidal treatment on areas identified at high-risk of JB establishment (see Maps 1-2 on subsequent pages). A single treatment is planned for these areas; applications will begin in April. However, additional treatments may be required later in the season, in subsequent years and in other areas. This application is applied at no charge to residents and property owners in the affected area. It will take contractors approximately 2-4 weeks to reach all parcels in the eradication areas.

Materials treated

The eradication project’s strategy is to control beetles while they are underground in the larval stage. Therefore, the project will exclusively treat irrigated turfgrass. Trees, shrubs and fruit or vegetable plants will not be treated.

Notification

Residents and business owners in the eradication area will be given 48-72 hours notice before treatments begin. Correspondence will be made by door-to-door contact and/or written notices left at the residence/business if personal contact is not possible.

What am I required to do?

To maximize the treatment’s effectiveness, please mow the lawn prior to the application date. During the pesticide application, residents and business owners are asked to close windows and doors, open exterior fence gates, bring people and pets indoors and move lawn furniture and other outdoor items away from turfgrass. After the application, please irrigate the lawn if rain is not forecasted in the next 48 hours. People and pets may resume activity on the lawn once it has dried.

Safety and environmental protection

UDAF has selected Acelepryn®, a non-restricted use pesticide for the project. The pesticide is proven effective in controlling JB and it has low toxicity for humans, pets, bees, birds and earthworms. It is classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a Reduced Risk Pesticide. It is a commonly used control product for turf pests in residential landscapes.

State pesticide enforcement officials will supervise pesticide applications to ensure all federal and state rules are followed, so that residents, water quality and the environment are protected. The state Apiary Program will notify area beekeepers in advance of applications and train the pest control company in best practices for pollinator protection.

Medical waiver

Owners or occupants of property may prohibit treatment by presenting an affidavit from the owner's or occupant's attending physician or physician assistant to the department which states that the treatment as planned is a danger to the owner's or occupant's health. The form is enclosed and can be mailed, delivered in person or scanned and emailed (see form for instructions). Medical waivers must be completed, signed and received by Friday, April 1st, 2022. Persons granted a medical waiver will need to complete approved non-chemical measures to control the JB population.

How can I learn more or get involved?

UDAF will be hosting a virtual public meeting to provide more information about the project (see below). Residents, employees and property owners in the eradication areas are encouraged to attend. Stakeholders interested in helping with this effort can learn to identify JB (see previous page) and report sightings of the pest to UDAF.

---

### 2022 Project Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPRING</th>
<th></th>
<th>FALL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 24th</td>
<td>Virtual Open House</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| April | Treatments begins | August | Fall treatment evaluated  
Stakeholders notified |
| May | JB traps deployed | September | Possible fall treatment |

---

**JAPANESE BEETLE ERADICATION PROJECT VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**

Have questions or concerns? Want to learn more or get involved? Come to our virtual open house meeting where you can meet the subject matter experts working on this project.

**ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE EVENT**

Thursday, March 24th 2022 — 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Visit [ag.utah.gov/jberadication](ag.utah.gov/jberadication) for more information and the Zoom meeting link.

---

Can’t attend but want more information?

Phone - 801-972-1669  
Email - UDAF-Insects@utah.gov
Spring 2022 Japanese Beetle Treatment Area - Kaysville 13.3 acres

Map Scale 1:2,200
1 inch = 183 feet