



# 2023 JB Eradication Planning & Progress Report

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## Background

- Japanese beetle (JB) is an invasive insect pest that is established in most states east of the Rocky Mountains.
- Larvae are severe pests of turf and adults feed on the foliage of over 300 different plants. Host plants include agriculturally important fruit, vegetable and ornamental plants.
- **If JB was to establish in Utah, stakeholders would suffer a cumulative cost of \$234 million dollars' worth of turf injury and \$1.6 million dollars in corn losses over a seven-year period.<sup>1</sup>**

## Recent Efforts

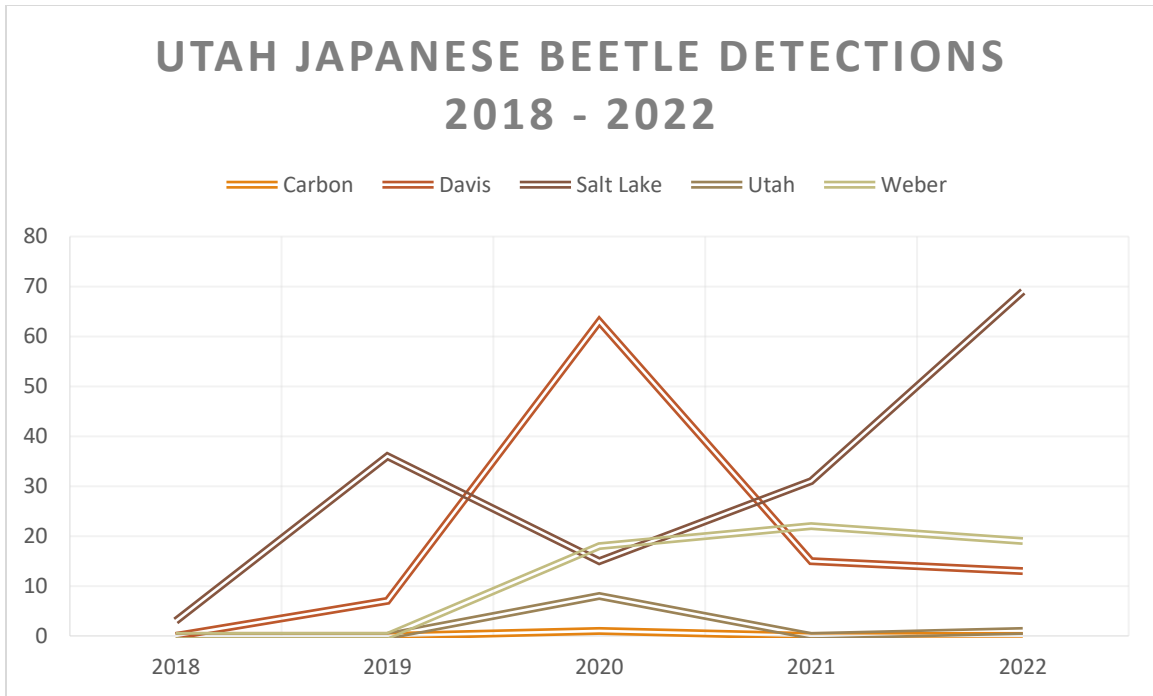
- Small populations of JB have been detected in recent years in the following counties: Carbon, Davis, Salt Lake, Utah and Weber.
- In 2020, a Plant Pest Emergency was declared by UDAF and treatments of irrigated turf in infested areas began.
- **The treatments have been successful in suppressing or eliminated JB populations in all infested counties, except Salt Lake County, where a population rebound occurred in 2022** (see back page).

## 2023 Eradication Proposal

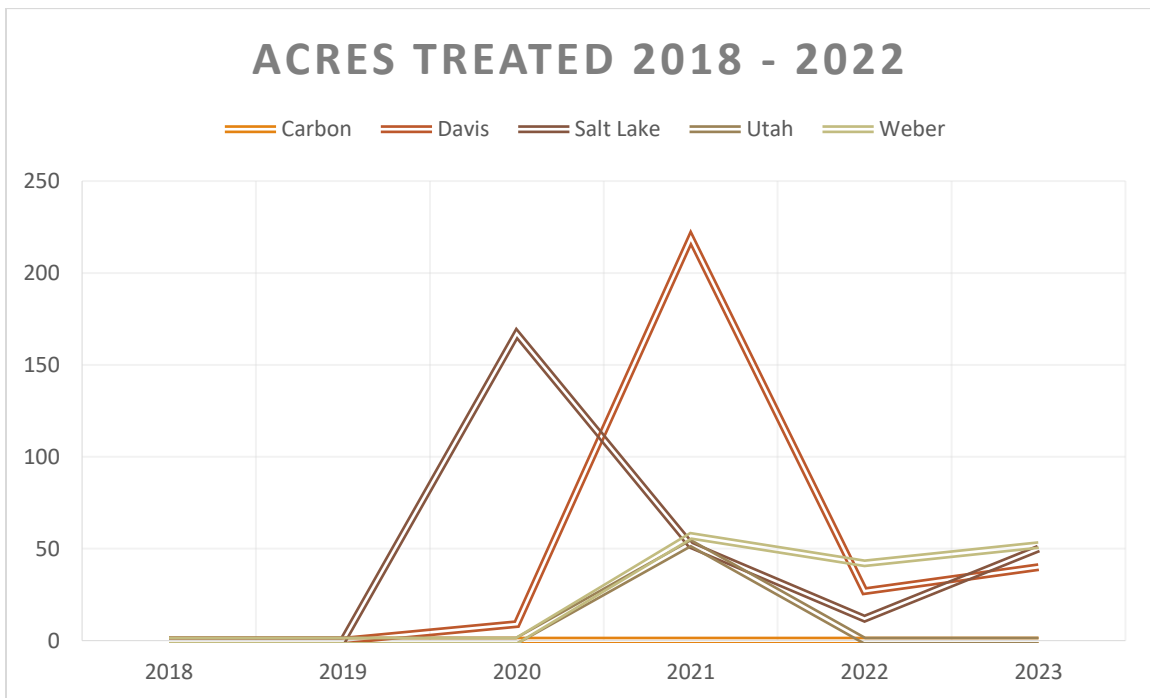
- **UDAF Plant Industry has proposed to treat approximately 142 acres of irrigated turf,** in areas where JB were found last year (see back page): Davis County (40 acres), Salt Lake County (50 acres) and Weber County (52 acres).
- The Japanese Beetle Decision and Action Committee, which is comprised of Extension Professors, biologists, city governments and representatives from agricultural producer groups, unanimously approved the plan put forth by the UDAF Plant Industry on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- If the planned treatments do not go forward, JB is likely to establish in Utah.

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<sup>1</sup> Grundon, S.J. and Schmucker, H. (2020). Economic Risk Analysis: Utah and the Japanese Beetle on Turn and Corn. <https://ag.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Risk-Analysis-of-JB-in-Utah.pdf>



Since the eradication began in 2020, JB populations have declined in all areas except Salt Lake County.



In 2023, the UDAF Insect Program proposes increasing the acreage treated in Salt Lake County in response to higher JB detections in 2022. A slight increase in acres treated is proposed for Davis and Weber counties. Even with proposed increases, this is a 60% reduction in the treatment area compared to 2021.