

## Frequently Asked Questions about Japanese Beetle and the Boise Eradication Program

### 1. How can I identify the beetle?

½ to ¾ inch long. Front of body is shiny metallic green. Wing cases are coppery. Body has 5 white tufts of hair along each side. Feeds out in the open on plant leaves, flowers and fruit.

### 2. How can I identify the larva?

Found in the soil feeding on the roots of grass. A white C-shaped grub.

### 3. What stage of the insect causes damage?

Both. That is why the pest is so destructive. The grubs feed on grass roots and, if left unchecked, can completely kill lawns, gardens, golf courses and similar areas. The adults feed on foliage and flowers, skeletonizing them (only the veins remain), and also eat fruits and vegetables. When feeding the adults release an aggregation pheromone which attracts other adults, and those beetle clusters can completely consume a fruit or vegetable on which they are feeding.

### 4. How long do the beetles live?

They have one generation per year. Eggs are laid in the soil during July, grubs hatch from the eggs and feed from July through October then hibernate until spring. When weather warms enough the grubs become pupae from which adults emerge in June to begin the cycle again. Adults live about a month.

### 5. What is the plan for the areas designated as needing treatment?

In mid-to-late May all grass or turf-containing areas on residential/business properties in each treatment zone (see maps for the Warm Springs and West State Street zones) will be treated by ISDA with a granular formulation of Acelepryn to prepare the grass to kill grubs as soon as they begin feeding. In mid-July the same areas will be treated with a granular formulation of Merit to kill feeding grubs that escape the initial treatment or later-hatching grubs. Gardens and any areas not containing grass will not receive these treatments. This will be the bulk of treatment needed. If, during inspections, adult beetles feeding on foliage or clear signs of adult beetle feeding are observed those properties will receive a foliar spray of Tempo (if only ornamental or shade plants are present) or Carbaryl (if edible plants are on the property). Last year, out of 100 properties treated for Japanese Beetle, only 5 instances of adult beetles feeding were detected, so we are expecting that only a very small amount of foliar spraying will need to occur this year. Simultaneously property managed by Boise Parks and Rec will be treated in a comparable manner by them. Several areas at BSU are also slated for treatment.

**6. Will my property be safe for children and pets after treatment?**

When applied properly following the label directions these are safe. The granular insecticides will need to be watered into the lawn for a short time to get them to the grass roots, then the lawn needs to dry for approximately 4 hours. After that the lawn is safe for contact. ISDA is hiring a professional pesticide applicator to carry out the treatments correctly, and will also be on hand to monitor treatments as they occur. Information on any precautions that need to be taken (such as keeping your pet indoors until the treatment is complete and the lawn is dry) will be delivered to each property prior to the scheduled treatment.

**7. Will I be notified before my property is treated?**

Someone from ISDA will visit every property approximately two days before treatment is scheduled to hand deliver information on the treatment date and approximate time and any precautions we recommend. If you are home we will be glad to answer any questions. If you are not present we will leave the information at the residence or business for you.

**8. Is there a cost to me for the treatment?**

No.

**9. How long will eradication take?**

That's hard to say at this point, since the infestation has just begun. From information collected from other western states that have gone through this process it will clearly take several years to be successful, and chances are the treatment areas may shift from time to time assuming that beetles will disappear from places where treatment has been successful, but may also move to infest untreated areas, since they are capable of flight (and can also be inadvertently transferred to new areas as "hitchhikers" on vehicles, in the movement of yard waste, etc.).

**10. Is this program mandatory?**

Yes. The only chance we have to rid the state of Japanese Beetle and return things to the beetle-free status quo that has been enjoyed by Idaho and the western states surrounding us is by cooperating and allowing treatment of any areas containing grass in the zones where Japanese Beetles have been collected in survey traps or where beetles have been seen feeding on foliage. To skip treatment of any of those properties would ensure that small "islands" of beetles are being left to continually reinfest treatment areas and adjacent areas that may have been beetle-free.

**11. Are there alternative treatments that can be used in place of those selected by ISDA?**

Much research went into selecting the survey and treatment protocols as well as the pesticides chosen, with an eye towards safety, efficacy of the treatment and environmental impact. The program selected was chosen as the best course presently available to maximize the above

conditions. Several alternatives that have been proposed, for example Neem oil and beneficial nematodes, have severe limitations and do not afford the effectiveness at a level of control that could achieve eradication.

**12. Who can I contact if I have other questions or think I've found Japanese Beetle outside the current treatment areas?**

Please feel free to contact Paul Castrovillo, Pest Detection and Survey Manager, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 790, Boise, ID 83701 or call 208-332-8627 or e-mail [Paul.Castrovillo@agri.idaho.gov](mailto:Paul.Castrovillo@agri.idaho.gov).