



BC Plant & Food Region
Suite 400 – 4321 Still Creek Drive
Burnaby, BC, V5C 6S7

July 10th, 2023

To the attention of the Store Manager and/or Owner,

Re: Plant retailers situated within a Japanese beetle regulated area in British Columbia (BC)

I am contacting you on behalf of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as we have identified that you may own or manage a plant retail premises situated within a Japanese beetle regulated area in the Province of British Columbia (BC). The Japanese beetle regulated areas are located within the Cities of Burnaby, Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam and Vancouver.

As you may be aware, Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) is a federally regulated plant pest that was first detected in the False Creek area of Vancouver in 2017, and could cause significant damage to the horticultural, environmental and agricultural landscape of BC. Since that time, the CFIA has been collaborating with multi-levels of government, industry (including retailers), and the general public to eradicate this pest from British Columbia (BC). Detections of Japanese beetle in 2022 in the Cities of Burnaby, Port Coquitlam, Richmond and Vancouver have led to the expansion of the regulated areas in Burnaby and Vancouver. A new Japanese beetle regulated area was also created in the Cities of Coquitlam-Port Coquitlam. These changes took effect on May 5, 2023, and are accompanied by new guidelines which may impact how you conduct business.

We are contacting all retailers within the Japanese beetle regulated areas in BC to prevent the spread of this damaging insect and raise awareness about how you can help protect your industry.

Under the new guidelines which have been updated and are available on the CFIA's website, retailers within a [regulated area](#), who wish to **sell potted plants with soil or growing media** to customers who may be taking the plants outside of a regulated area, must operate under one of the following four options listed on the following page titled "**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**" to reduce the risk of spreading Japanese beetle.

Detailed information about the Japanese beetle requirements can be found in the following documents available on the CFIA's website: inspection.canada.ca/jb:

- [D-96-15: Phytosanitary Requirements to Prevent the Spread of Japanese Beetle \(*Popillia japonica*\) in Canada and the United States - Canadian Food Inspection Agency](#)
- [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](#)



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

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 (RA) 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 16th of the previous year, 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.



Retailers are responsible for selecting an option and will be assessed by the CFIA on a case-by-case basis. The CFIA is not responsible for any additional costs incurred as a result of Japanese beetle regulatory compliance actions. Please contact the CFIA as soon as possible to determine which option will work best for your facility.

A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) has been developed to address possible concerns which you may have and is attached. Please contact the CFIA (see below) with any additional questions you may have at this time.

MOVEMENT CERTIFICATE

If you require a **CFIA-issued Movement Certificate**, please contact the CFIA as soon as possible either by phone or by email (see below).

RETAIL of JAPANESE BEETLE TRAPS and REPORTING JAPANESE BEETLE PRESENCE

We are asking all retailers who sell Japanese beetle traps, specifically in and around the regulated areas in BC, to place shelf signs (*see photo enclosed*) by all traps sold in-store as part of our effort to educate the general public about the need to report all Japanese beetles captured. We need your customers who are purchasing these Japanese beetle traps to report the presence of any beetles they find in order to assist us with identifying the locations of beetle populations.

We would appreciate it if you could please let us know who we can contact at your local Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and/or Vancouver stores, in and around the regulated areas (*see [enclosed map](#)*), so we can make arrangements for ambassadors with the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC) to deliver the shelf signs.

If you or your customers see an insect which you think is a Japanese beetle, or if you see signs of feeding damage, please [report](#) this to the CFIA as soon as possible on our website, or by calling us at **604-292-5742** or emailing us at BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca.

Additional resources and information about Japanese beetle are also available free of charge which you can distribute to your customers. Please let us know if you are interested in receiving these resources and we can make arrangements to provide this as well.

Please feel free to contact us using the phone number or email listed below if you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss this further. Please visit our [website](#) to find out more information about the Japanese beetle response in British Columbia.

CONTACT THE CFIA

Please call us at **604-292-5742** or send an email to BCPF.Japanese.Beetle@inspection.gc.ca to:

- obtain a Movement Certificate;
- identify the best option for your facility;
- report Japanese beetle presence;



- ask questions or receive more information.

Thank you for your assistance in protecting BC from the threat posed by Japanese beetle.

Sincerely,

original signed by

Kate Mumford

Incident Commander for Japanese beetle response *and*

Acting Inspection Manager – Plant Health West

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

encl.:

Map of Japanese beetle regulated area

Photo of shelf sign

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Retailers re: Japanese beetle

cc:

Matthew Miyagawa, Director, British Columbia Plant and Food Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Stacy Stibbard, Manager, Operations Specialist Unit – Plant Health, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Craig Koenig, Acting Senior Director, Western Operations, Canadian Food Inspection Agency

