



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

JAPANESE BEETLE ERADICATION 2023



For decades the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has monitored for the presence of Japanese beetle throughout the state. Japanese beetle is an invasive pest of more than 300 plants including turf, roses, grapes, and hops. They are destructive, challenging, and expensive to control. Adults feed by skeletonizing leaves, flowers, buds, and fruit. Their larvae (grubs) feed on grass and ornamental plant roots.

In 2020, WSDA trapped two Japanese beetles in Grandview and one in Sunnyside. In 2021 and 2022 WSDA captured over 24,000 and 23,000 beetles, respectively, in Grandview and surrounding areas. Also, almost 200 beetles were captured in Wapato and one in Richland. In 2023 WSDA captured over 19,600 beetles in Grandview, Mabton, and Sunnyside, over 1,100 beetles in Wapato, and five beetles in Pasco.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Wapato	0	0	184	1,163
Outlook	0	0	0	18,488
Sunnyside	2	0	7	
Grandview	1	24,048	23,760	
Mabton	0	0		
Prosser	0	0	15	31
Richland	0	0	1	0
Pasco	0	0	0	5

WSDA's Japanese beetle eradication project is a multi-year project to remove all beetles from infested areas. The project utilizes treating lawns with larvicide treatment (it kills the grubs, not the adults), mass trapping for adult beetles, establishing a quarantine to prevent the spread of the beetle, and community involvement.

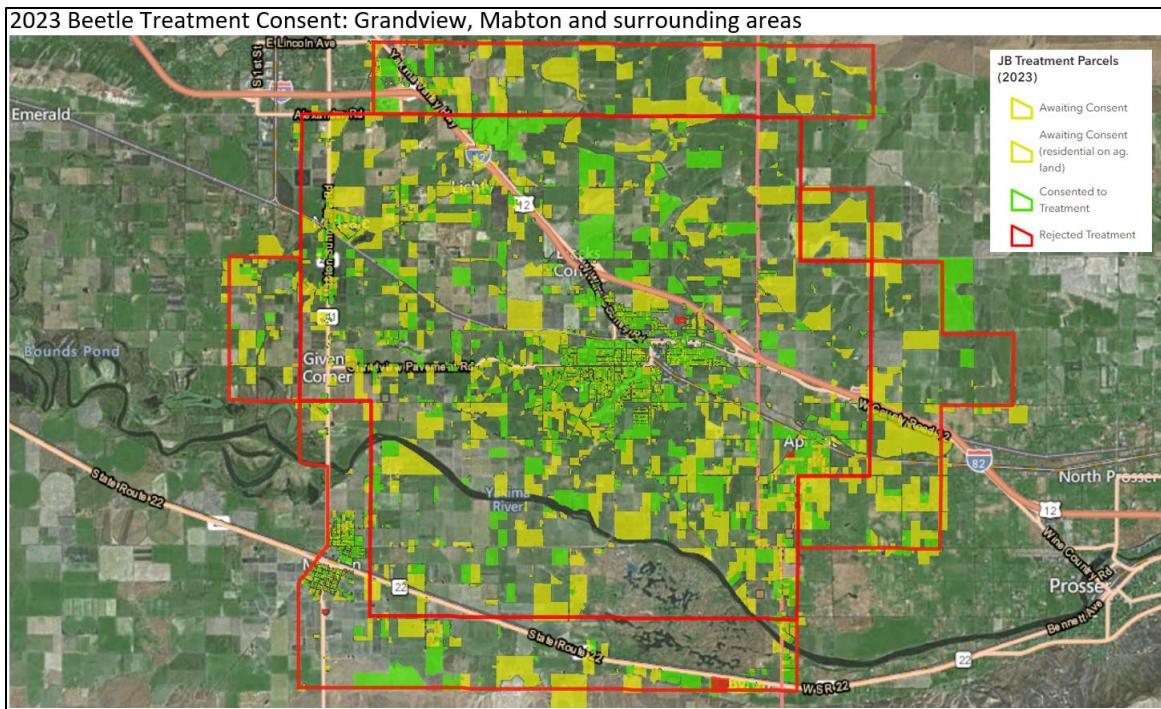
2023 Treatment

With the support and partnership of community members, landowners, and growers Washington has a better chance to successfully eliminate this pest. This is a multi-year project and treatments may be required for several years. Treatments are free for residents within treatment boundaries.

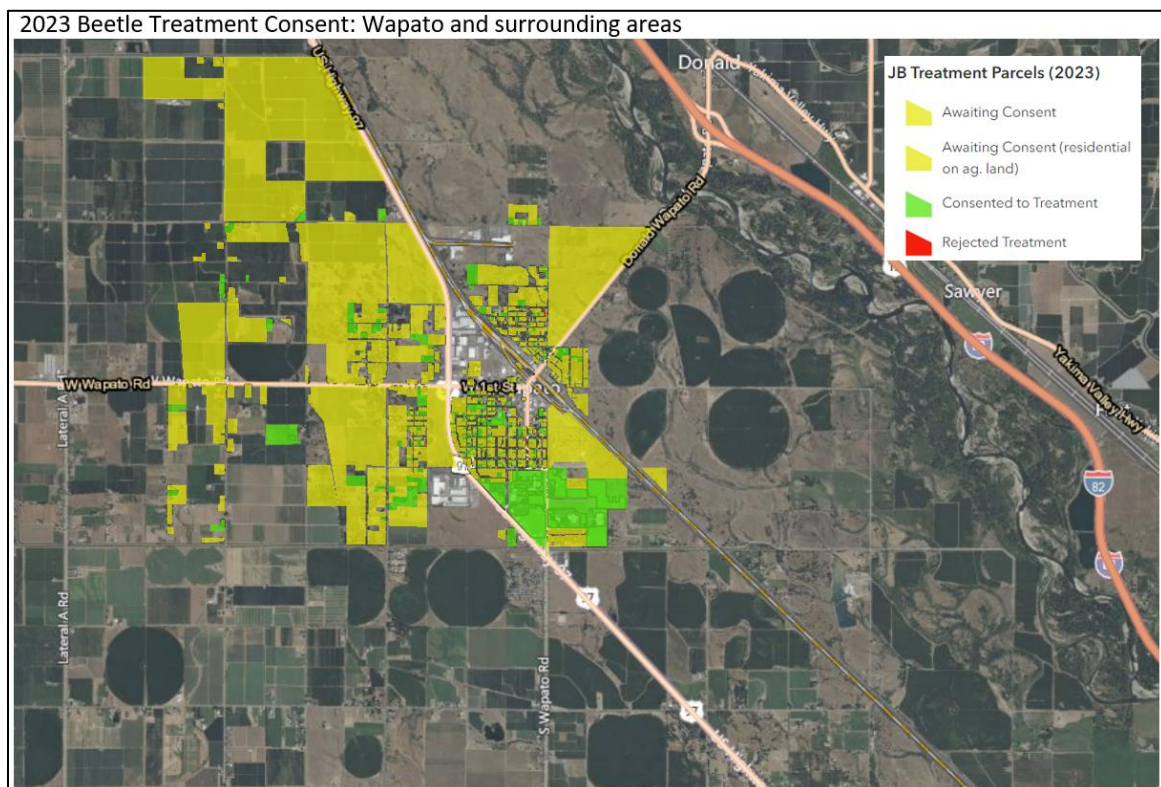
Between winter and early spring of 2023, WSDA contacted property owners and renters for permission to access and treat their properties for Japanese beetle treatments. Consent forms were delivered by mail, door-knocking, shared at community events, and available at city halls.

In April, May, and June, WSDA sprayed a Washington Department of Health-reviewed "reduced risk" larvicide Acelepryn® to grass and lawns of consented properties. WSDA treated 2,987 properties which covered 1,331 acres total. One treatment area was in and around Grandview and Mabton; the other was in Wapato.





2,742 properties were treated in and around Grandview and Mabton which covered 1,184.5 acres.



245 properties were treated in and around Wapato covering 146.5 acres. This is the first year Wapato and surrounding areas were treated.

According to the Washington State Department of Health, the “reduced risk” larvicide is not considered to be a health risk for humans, pets, wildlife, or other beneficial insects (including bees) when applied according to label directions. The treatment is approved for grass on athletic fields, parks, playgrounds, and lawns, as well as flowerbeds and bushes planted around homes, schools, and businesses.

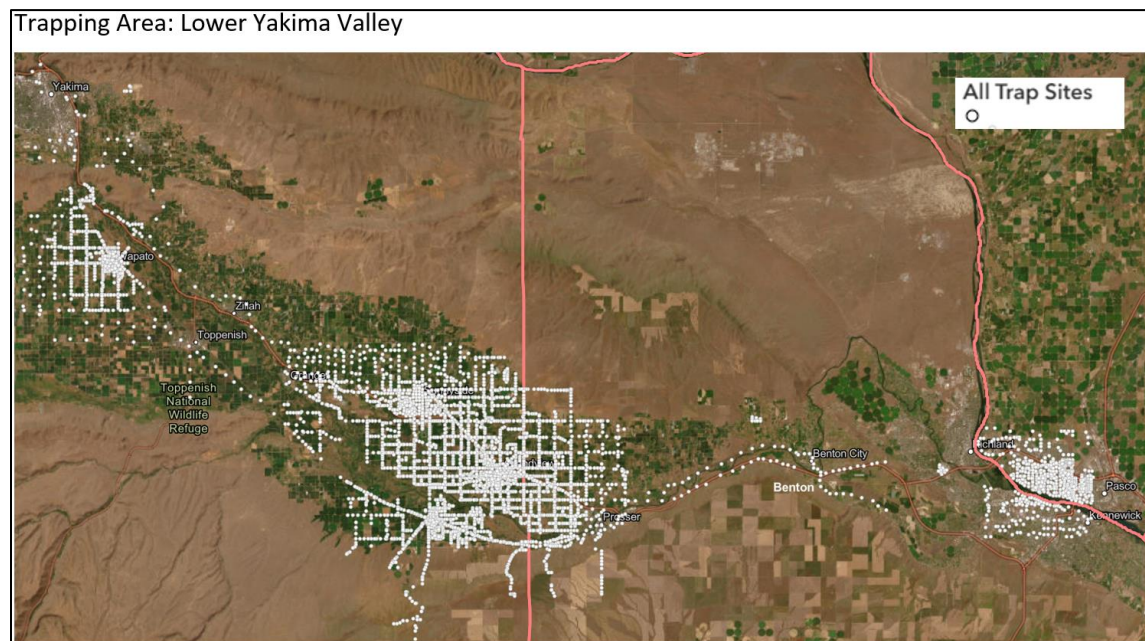
WSDA is seeking consent again this winter to treat a growing number of properties.

2023 Trapping

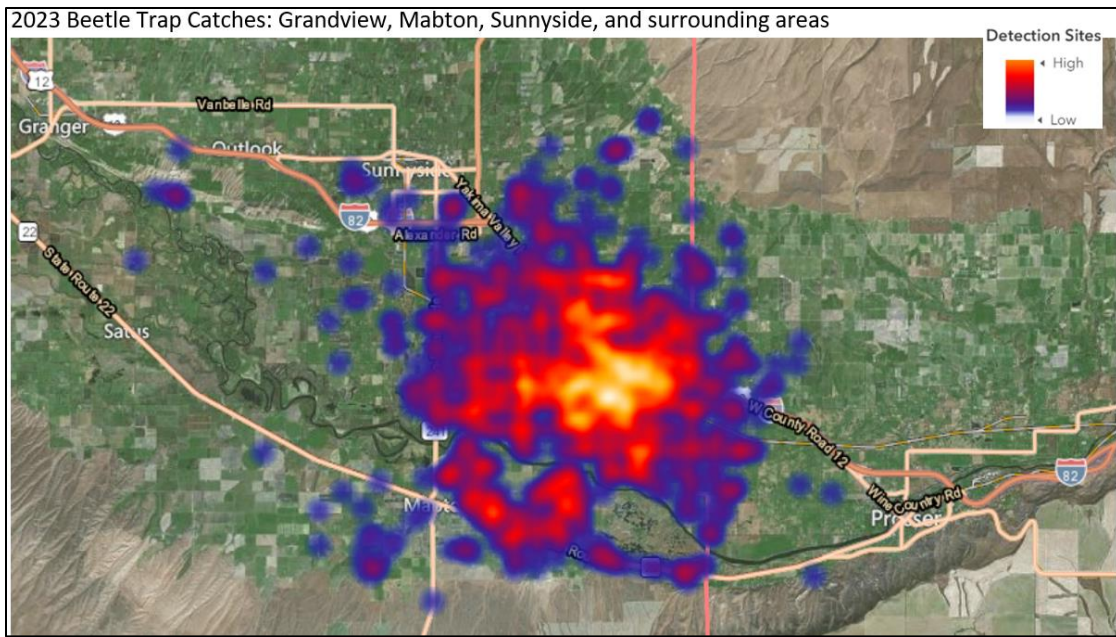
Each year WSDA places traps to detect and remove beetles. WSDA sets thousands of bag traps in the late spring. The traps are checked regularly and removed in the fall. The trap has a scented lure to attract nearby beetles.

Capturing beetles in an infested area can help lower their population by preventing them from laying eggs, but it will not eradicate them. Placing traps for beetles outside of infested areas can monitor their spread and detect new beetle populations.

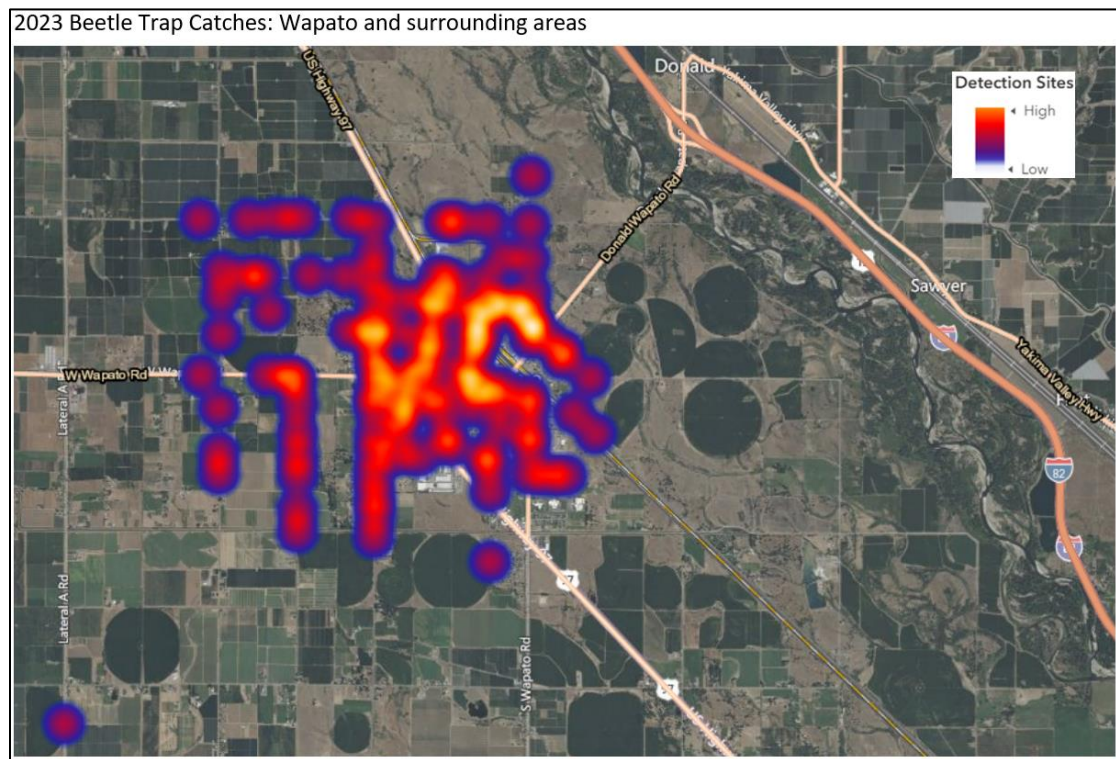
In 2023, WSDA placed 4,074 traps throughout the lower Yakima Valley from Yakima to the Tri-Cities. Traps were placed around fields, roads, transfer stations, neighborhoods, and other highly traveled areas. Most traps were placed in the infested areas in and around Grandview, Mabton, Sunnyside, and Wapato and surrounding areas. Later in the season, more traps were added in and around Pasco after beetles were detected there.



In 2023 WSDA captured 19,655 beetles. Most of the beetles were captured in and around the quarantine area. The second area with most beetles captured was in and around Wapato. A few beetles were captured in Pasco.

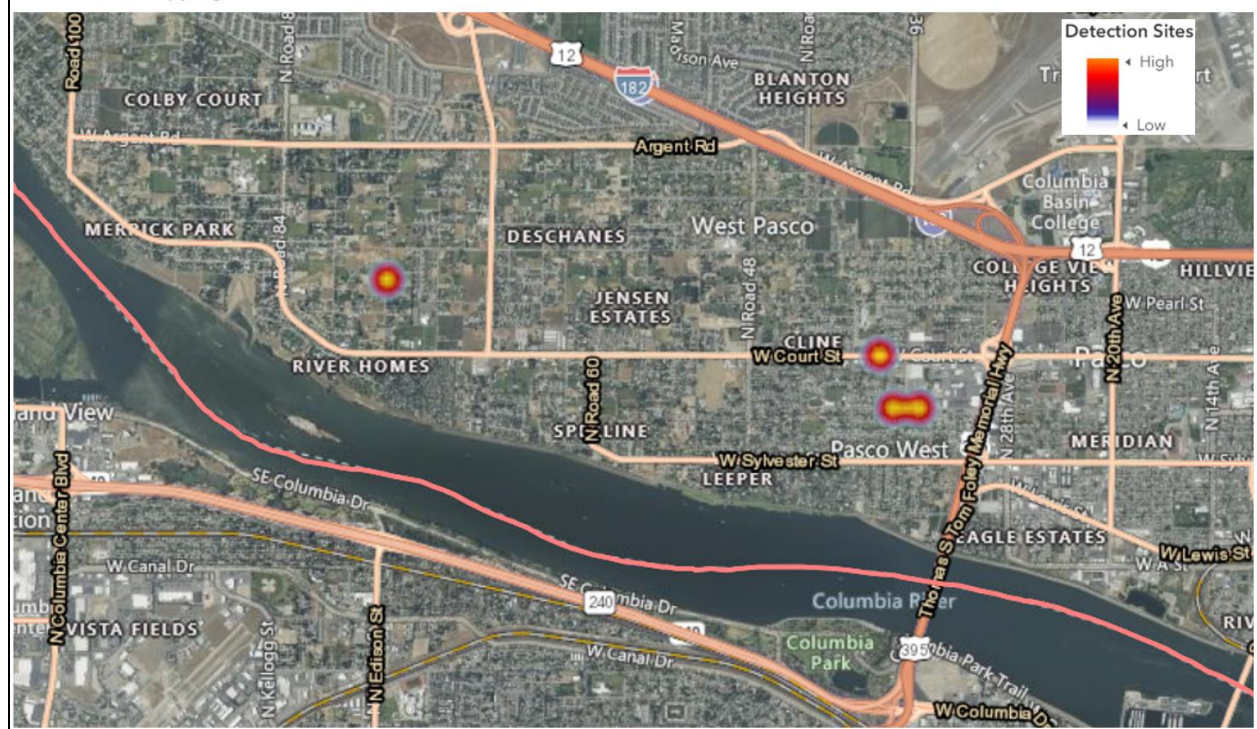


18,488 beetles were captured in and around Grandview, Mabton, and Sunnyside areas. and surrounding areas. This is lower than the 23,760 beetles caught in 2022. However, catches spread further out in 2023. This is the third year this area has been trapped.



1,163 beetles were captured in and around Wapato. More beetles were captured in this area than in 2022. This is the second year this area has been trapped.

2023 Beetle Trapping Catches: Pasco



Five beetles were captured in Pasco. This is the first time beetles were captured in Pasco. After the first beetle was captured, WSDA placed 250 more traps in the area to help remove and detect additional adult beetles that may have been there.

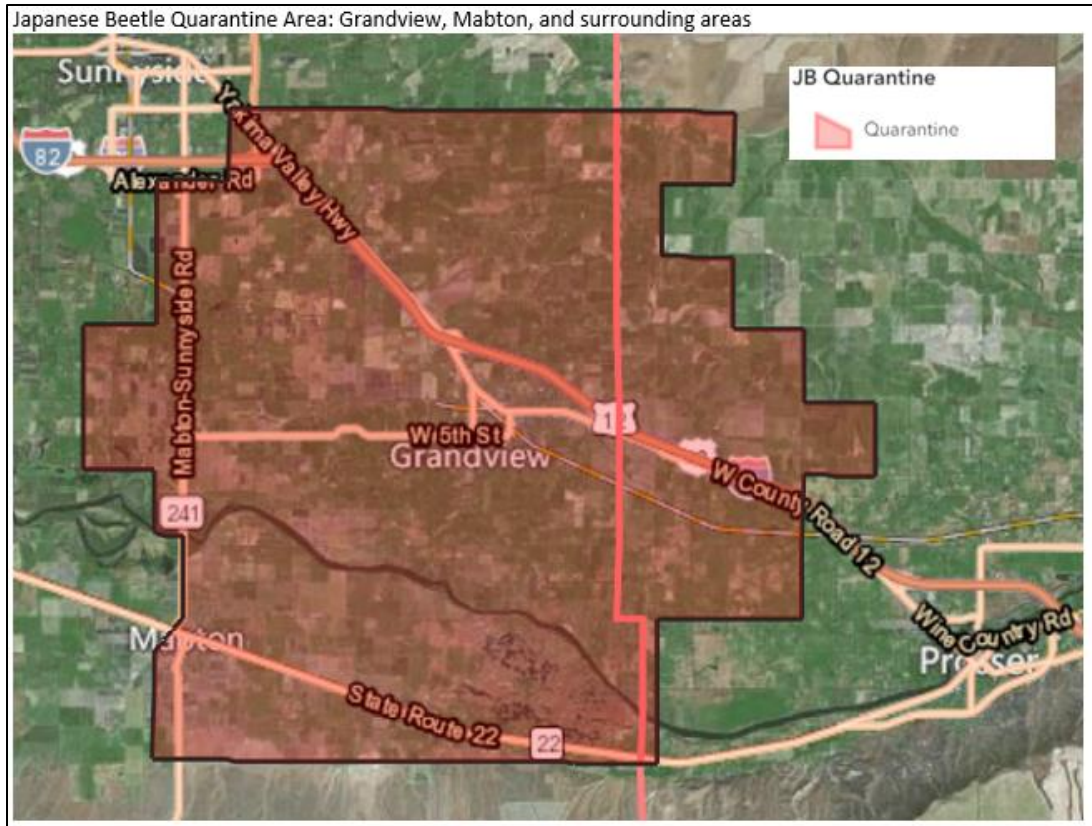
Residents are encouraged to remove and report Japanese beetles. Beetles are safe to touch as they do not sting or bite. They can be picked off vegetation and dropped in a bowl of soapy water. A wide variety of beetle traps are also available for purchase online and at local home and garden stores. Once the beetles are dead, they are safe to discard.

Beetle sightings and catches should be reported to WSDA. Take a photo of the beetle and count the total found. Reports can be made online at agr.wa.gov/beetles, by emailing pestprogram@agr.wa.gov, or by calling 1-800-443-6684.

Quarantine

WSDA established a rule prohibiting the movement of certain items out of the Japanese beetle quarantine area. The quarantine can impact community members, farmers, growers, landscapers, and others who live, work, or travel through the quarantine area.

The quarantine area is a boundary created around an infested area. The goal is to protect resources outside of the infested area. A Japanese beetle quarantine is in place for Grandview, Mabton, and surrounding areas. WSDA will expand the quarantine boundaries to reflect new catches regularly, so check back often to be aware of the current quarantine boundaries.



Items that may move Japanese beetle adults or young grubs should stay inside the quarantine area. Soil or sod, brush, branches, roots, leaves, grass clippings, plant cuttings, weeds, flowers, plants, shrubs, nursery stock, and potted plants must remain in the area. For full details on the quarantine rule and regulations, visit the quarantine page at agr.wa.gov/beetles.



Yard debris items from the quarantine area was disposed of for free at the Yard Waste Drop-Off at 875 Bridgeview Rd. Grandview, WA 98930 through November 2023. The drop-off was also open on the second Saturday of each month. In 2023, the drop-off site collected 3,969 cubic yards of green waste to help prevent beetles from spreading.

A note for growers:

From May 15 – October 15 hop vines, cones, unshucked corn ears, cut flowers, and plant parts and cuttings, should stay in the quarantine area.

Dormant plants and bulbs free from soil, and harvested cherries, apples, peaches, apricots, grapes, bailey hay, grains, dried mint, and processed hop cones may move outside of the quarantine zone if no beetles are present.

ALWAYS PROHIBITED	PROHIBITED MAY 15 - OCT 15	NEVER PROHIBITED
• Soil or sod (turf) • Plants not free from soil, such as mint roots, fruit trees and bushes, nursery stock, and potted plants 	• Hop vines and cones • Unshucked corn ears • Cut flowers • All plants and plant cuttings: brush, branches, roots, leaves, grass clippings, weeds, and other yard or farm waste	• Dormant plants and bulbs free from all soil • Harvested and with no beetles present: - cherries - apples - peaches - apricots - grapes - baled hay - grains - dried mint - processed hop cones

Growers may move items with a compliance agreement created with WSDA. For more information, please contact Plant Services at plantservices@agr.wa.gov, email Anthony.Ayers@agr.wa.gov, or call 360-870-5069.

Outreach

WSDA worked to educate about the Japanese beetle project through newsletters provided regular stakeholder updates and attended several events throughout the year. The Pest Program held an open house was held houses in Grandview and Wapato. Team members attended Chick Days at Valley Wide Co-op, multiple grower's conferences, and tabled outside local businesses and city halls. Communication efforts continued through hour-long programs on the KNDA radio station and multiple radio advertisements. Grandview's electronic billboard displayed messages and Brewed Awakening Deli and Treats stickered coffee cups. WSDA also produced seven press releases, two blogs, and ten stakeholder updates to help educate and inform residents. The current mayor and chamber of commerce helped record videos to teach people about the project.



How You Can Help

If Japanese beetle were to establish in Washington, it would pose a serious threat to gardens, parks, lawns, and farms. Communities will experience loss of landscapes, rising pest control costs, and long-term pesticide use. Costly quarantines could make it difficult and expensive to move plants and products out of Washington.

To help:

- Allow WSDA to place traps on your property when needed.
- Give permission to treat your property when needed, and support WSDA's eradication efforts.
- Educate yourself and your neighbors about Japanese beetle.
- Learn about the project and sign up for Japanese beetle alerts at agr.wa.gov/beetles.