

# Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

JKI, Messeweg 11/12, 38104 Braunschweig, Germany



Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

[www.julius-kuehn.de](http://www.julius-kuehn.de)

31-07-2025

## Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (3128)

| <b>1 General information</b>  |  |
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| 1.1 Title   | Confirmed presence of <i>Popillia japonica</i> in Germany (Hesse)  |
| 1.2 Executive summary   | In July 2025, an individual <i>Popillia japonica</i> beetle was found in a private garden in Hesse. The private person reported the suspected finding to the regional plant protection service who took the beetle for further identification. A male <i>Popillia japonica</i> was identified by the official laboratory of Hesse and the National Reference Laboratory (NRL). On 22 <sup>nd</sup> July, the delimiting survey was started according to the emergency plan and two days later the traps were installed in the survey area of 2 km radius. Intensive inspections were carried out since then and no further <i>P. japonica</i> could be found so far. The beetle is currently suspected to be a hitchhiker brought back in a private vehicle by tourists from Italy. The survey is ongoing. |
| <b>2 Information concerning the single authority and responsible persons</b>                                    |  |
| 2.1 Notification from   | Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI),<br>Institute for National and International Plant Health,<br>Germany   |
| <b>3 Location</b>   |  |
| 3.1 Location  | in Hesse   |
| <b>4 Reason of the notification and the pest status</b>   |  |
| 4.1 First finding in Germany or in the area   | Confirmed appearance of the pest in part of the territory of Germany, in which its presence was previously unknown.  |
| 4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation. | Other: status under determination<br><br>The individual beetle is regarded as a hitchhiker so far. Intensive surveys are ongoing.  |

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| 4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism. | Other: status under determination  |
| 4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.                          | Other: status under determination<br><br>Due to the detection of <i>P. japonica</i> in Basel, Switzerland close to the border with Germany, the infested zone and the buffer zone extend into Germany. Therefore, a corresponding demarcated area has been designated. However, no <i>Popillia</i> has been found so far in this demarcated area in Germany. |
| <b>5 Finding, sampling, testing and confirmation of the harmful organism</b>   |  |
| 5.1 How the presence or appearance of the harmful organism was found.  | Information submitted by professional operators, laboratories or other persons.<br><br>The beetle was reported by private garden owners who caught the beetle in their garden.   |
| 5.2 Date of finding:   | 18-07-2025   |
| 5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.  | Date of sampling: 21-07-2025   |
| 5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory   | Regierungspräsidium Gießen – Pflanzenschutzdienst<br>Schanzenfeldstraße 8<br>35578 Wetzlar<br>Germany<br><br>Julius Kühn-Institut – Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit<br>Messeweg 11-12<br>38104 Braunschweig<br>Germany  |
| 5.5 Diagnostic method  | According to peer reviewed protocols PM 7/74 (1) - <i>Popillia japonica</i>  |
| 5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.  | 30-07-2025   |
| <b>6 Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area</b>   |  |
| 6.1 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.   | Open air – other: private garden   |
| 6.2 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).   | 1 pce<br><br>1 male beetle was found in the private garden. The private garden is huge and many big shrubs and trees   |

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|  | grow there including preferred species of <i>Popillia</i> like hazel and roses.  |
| 6.3 Severity of the outbreak.  | Only 1 beetle was found so far and there are no further signs of an infestation like typical feeding marks etc.  |
| 6.4 Source of the outbreak   | The source of the beetle could not be found yet. However, it is suspected that the beetle was introduced as a hitchhiker by neighbours who returned from holidays in northern Italy on 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2025.   |
| <b>7 Official phytosanitary measures</b>                                       |  |
| 7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.                               | Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. No demarcated area established.<br><br>An intensive delimiting survey is carried out including traps and visual inspections to find out if there are further Japanese beetles or if it was a single finding. The survey is carried out within an area of 2 km radius. |
| 7.2 Identification of the area covered by the official phytosanitary measures. | 12,566,370 m <sup>2</sup>  |
| 7.3 Measures affecting the movement of goods.                                  | Measures do not affect import into or movement within the Union of goods   |
| 7.4 Specific surveys.  | Yes  |
| <b>8 Pest risk analysis/assessment</b>   | Pest risk analysis is not required (harmful organism is listed in Annex II B of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.  |