

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (3539)

Title:
Confirmed finding of <i>Popillia japonica</i> in Germany (Lower Saxony)
Executive summary:
On 15 th July 2026, a Japanese beetle was detected in a trap at Hanover Airport during annual official surveys. On 16 th July 2026, eight additional traps were set up within a 1-kilometer radius of the discovery site and visual inspections were conducted. The traps are checked regularly and visual inspections continue to be carried out. On 20 th July 2026, another Japanese beetle was found in a newly installed trap nearby. On 21 st and 23 rd July 2026, two additional traps were set up during inspections (a total of 11 traps). Since only two specimens were found at a high-risk location (airport), it is assumed that they are hitchhikers that were introduced from an infested area via an airplane.
Pest status in Germany
Present: under eradication, only in some parts of Germany, at low prevalence
Adoption of official phytosanitary measures
Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. No demarcated area established. Based on current information, the beetles are presumed to be hitchhikers. There is no evidence of an established population of the Japanese beetle. Surveys are being intensified in the vicinity of the site where the beetle was found (setting up additional traps, visual checks) and public awareness is being raised.