

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (3539) – update

Title:
Update on a finding of <i>Popillia japonica</i> in Germany (Lower Saxony)
Executive summary:
On 15th July 2026, a Japanese beetle was detected in a trap at Hanover Airport during annual official surveys. On 16th 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 20th July 2026, another Japanese beetle was found in a newly installed trap nearby. On 21st and 23rd 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. Update 14th August 2026: After setting up additional traps, a total of 7 more beetles were detected on three separate dates (2 on August 6th, 2 on August 10th, and 3 on August 13th, 2026). Investigations have shown that a cargo plane from Milan lands in the affected cargo area every day (except Saturdays) in the afternoon and is also unloaded there. Of the 9 beetles caught in total (8 males and 1 female), 7 beetles were caught in a trap located approximately 150 meters from the unloading site for cargo planes from Milan and also along the route the cargo takes from the plane to the cargo terminal. The other two traps, one beetle was found in each trap, are also located near the cargo area. Visual inspections of the surrounding area revealed no signs of an established population. Also in recent years, the affected area has been included in the survey. In both 2024 and 2025, two traps were set up near the area where aircraft from Milan landed – but nothing was found. Therefore, there are good reasons to believe that the captured beetles were gradually introduced as hitchhikers on several flights from an infested area.
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.