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06-07-2026

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (1646) – update

Title:
Update on a finding of *Popillia japonica* in Germany (Freiburg, Baden-Wuerttemberg)
Executive summary:
In 2021, a single male beetle was caught at the end of the survey season in a trap close to a railroad line in Baden-Wuerttemberg, which runs in north-south direction. There is currently no indication for an established population at this location. The *Popillia japonica* beetle is presumed to have come from outbreak areas in other Member States by train as a hitchhiker. Therefore, no demarcated area has been established. An intensified survey was carried out in 2022. In 2022, 6 additional traps were installed in a diameter of 1 km around the first finding in 2021. In July 2022, a single male beetle of *Popillia japonica* was caught in a trap of the plant protection service Baden-Württemberg close to a train terminal in Baden-Wuerttemberg, where the trucks arrive via train right from Novara (Italy). The finding was officially confirmed based on a diagnosis of the official laboratory in Baden-Wuerttemberg. It is presumed that also the second male beetle arrived as a hitchhiker. No demarcated area has been established. Intensified surveys and additional public awareness raising activities were carried out. In July 2023, one male *Popillia japonica* beetle was caught in a trap of the plant protection service close to a train terminal in Baden-Wuerttemberg where the trucks arrive via train right from Novara (Italy). The finding was officially confirmed based on diagnosis by the official laboratory in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Since 2022, 7 pheromone traps were installed in a diameter of 1 km around the findings in 2021 and 2022. The traps were inspected weekly. No further Japanese beetle was caught until July 2023 at this location. Therefore, the regional plant protection service presumed the *Popillia japonica* beetle to be a train hitchhiker from outbreak areas in Northern Italy, too. There was no indication for an established population at this location and no demarcated area has been established. An intensified survey is carried out in the surroundings of 1.5 km around the finding. Public awareness activities were carried out by a press release informing about the finding. <u>Update September 2023:</u> In September 2023, one single male beetle was caught in a trap in the same area approximately 400 m away from the other finding at the train terminal. <u>Update July 2024:</u> In July 2024, 4 male beetles were caught at the same time in a trap in the same area as the year before. The trap was placed directly at the terminal where the trucks arrive via train from Italy. No beetles were caught in the other 7 traps in the area, which were checked twice since 25th July without any finding of beetles. 4 more traps were placed at risk locations (irrigated lawns) in a 500 m radius around the 1 km zone of the finding and a survey was carried out.

Update June 2025: In June 2025, 1 male beetle was caught in a trap in the same area as in 2024. The trap was placed directly at the terminal where the trucks arrive via train from Italy. No beetles were caught in the other 12 traps in the area.

Update July 2025: 21 male *Popillia* beetles were trapped in the area where the beetle was found in June 2025 and one female beetle was found in a private garden. A demarcated area has been established and eradication measures are initiated. Transport of green waste and soil are prohibited, plants for planting with soil may only be transported under the supervision of the authorities. The source of the infestation is unknown. In total, 31 Japanese beetles were caught in 2025. Mass trapping was performed.

Update July 2026: Since 22nd June 2026, 19 beetles were caught within a 250 m radius at the same place as in 2025. Mass trapping is installed and intensive visual inspections are performed. The demarcated area has not been increased and eradication measures are ongoing: Transport of green waste and soil are prohibited, plants for planting with soil may only be transported under the supervision of the authorities. The source of the infestation is still unknown.

Pest status in Germany

Present: at low prevalence, only in specific parts of Germany, under eradication

Adoption of official phytosanitary measures

Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. Those measures are taken inside the demarcated area.

The movement of untreated green waste and soil is prohibited outside the demarcated zones and lawns in the infested zone must not be watered during the beetle flight period. The movement of plants takes place under the supervision of the responsible authorities only and under certain conditions. Mass trapping is ongoing.