Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit
Institute for National and International Plant Health

Julius Kühn-Institut
Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen
Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

JKI, Messeweg 11/12, 38104 Braunschweig, Germany

www.julius-kuehn.de

31-08-2026

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (3128) – update

Title:
Update on a finding of *Popillia japonica* in Germany (Hesse)
Executive summary:
In July 2025, an individual *Popillia japonica* 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 *Popillia japonica* was identified by the official laboratory of Hesse and the National Reference Laboratory (NRL). On 22nd 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 *P. japonica* 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. Update August 2025: Meanwhile, 4 more beetles have been found and morphologically identified as male *Popillia japonica*. 2 of them have been found in a trap 470 m north of the first finding, one in a trap 400 m west of the first finding and 1 in a trap at the initial finding. Surveys are ongoing and phytosanitary measures are taken. The demarcated area (infestation zone and buffer zone) has been established around the points of findings. The general decree is in draft status and is expected to be published as soon as possible. Update October 2025: 1 more beetle was found in a trap and 1 more beetle was reported by a private person in the infested zone. The beetles were identified morphologically by the official laboratory in Hesse. In total, 7 beetles were detected so far in the demarcated area. Update June 2026: 5 additional beetles were found in the trap located in the private garden within the infested area where the first specimen was found in 2025. The beetles were identified morphologically by the official laboratory in Hesse. All beetles are males. In total, 12 beetles were detected so far in the demarcated area. Update 25th June 2026: Mass trapping was started in calendar week 25. 12 additional traps were set up in the infested zone (private garden, local area). The traps are checked daily and are currently capturing over 100 beetles per day. So far, over 400 beetles have been caught. Update August 2026: Due to currently declining catch numbers, the traps are being checked only three times a week. A total of 1581 beetles have been caught so far. Due to further beetle discoveries inside the buffer zone, the demarcated area has been expanded. Consequently, an amendment to the general decree was made. In addition, the action plan was adjusted: requirements for netting covering green

waste have been tightened to a maximum mesh size of 3 mm and the storage period for soil within the infested zone has been increased from 6 to 12 months.

Update 28th August 2026: During surveys conducted by the plant protection service of Hesse close to a turf producer, on the outside edge of the buffer zone north of Trebur, 1 male beetle was found on 10th August 2026. In addition to the 5 traps around the areas of turf production, 16 additional traps have been set up in a radius of 1 km around the discovery site. The traps have been checked three times a week. In addition, soil sampling and visual inspections have been conducted. No further beetle was found. The plant protection service assumes the beetle to be a hitchhiker. The result of molecular genetic analysis is pending.

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.

- trapping according to the emergency plan, visual checks, intensive monitoring
- press and TV information for the public

Update October 2025: The general decree was published on 25th August 2025.