

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (3606)

Title:
Confirmed presence of <i>Popillia japonica</i> in Germany (Lower Saxony)
Executive summary:
On 10th September 2026, a report of a suspected finding was received from a private person. Attached was a photograph of a captured beetle, which was identifiable as a Japanese beetle (<i>Popillia japonica</i>). On 11th September 2026, an on-site inspection was carried out in the garden of the private person and the following findings were made: Three Japanese beetles were found on two plants (two beetles on a grapevine and one beetle on a plum tree). Together with the Japanese beetle previously secured by the private person, a total of four Japanese beetles (three males and one female) were confirmed in the private garden. In addition, damage was observed on individual leaves of the grapevine plant, highly likely caused by feeding activity of the Japanese beetles. On 11th September 2026, a pheromone trap was installed in the private garden, along with six additional traps in the surrounding area. These traps are being inspected three times a week. During trap inspection on 16th September 2026, one further Japanese beetle (male) was captured in the trap located at the original finding site in the private garden. Short-term eradication measures were ordered, including the treatment of the lawn at the finding site with entomopathogenic nematodes. The establishment of a demarcated area is currently being prepared.
Pest status in Germany
Present: at low prevalence, only in some parts of Germany, under eradication
Adoption of official phytosanitary measures
Official phytosanitary measures will be taken. The establishment of a demarcated area is currently being prepared. A prohibition on the movement of green waste and soil was imposed on the affected property owner. Treatment of the lawn area at the finding site with entomopathogenic nematodes.