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Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (2775) – update

Title:
Update on a finding of *Popillia japonica* in Germany (Bavaria)
Executive summary:
In August 2024, one beetle of *Popillia japonica* was caught in a pheromone trap in Bavaria, less than 1000 m away from the border to Austria. The trap has been installed during the national survey program in Germany. Further traps are being set in a radius of 1 km and the NPPO of Austria was informed to enable close cooperation. The trap was located close to a motorway that leads to the south including known demarcated areas in Switzerland and Italy. Therefore, it is presumed that the beetle was introduced as a hitchhiker. No indication of an established population could be found so far. Update August 2024: 13 days after the first finding another male beetle was caught in a trap located about 4.5 km northwest from the first one. The trap has also been installed during the national survey program in Germany. Further traps are being set in a radius of 1 km. It is presumed that the beetle was introduced as a hitchhiker. No indication of an established population could be found so far. 1st Update July 2025: First two and a few days later three more male beetles were caught in the same pheromone trap near Lindau as the first beetle last year. According to the regional plant protection service, no indication of an established population could be found so far. 2nd Update July 2025: 1 more *Popillia japonica* beetle was caught in the trap near Lindau. So, there are now a total of 6 beetles in this trap this year. Intensive surveys are carried out but no signs of an established population could be found so far. Update September 2025: 4 more beetles were captured in the trap near Lindau. So, there are now a total of 10 beetles in this trap this year. 3 more beetles were captured in a radius of nearly 5 km: 1 more beetle was found in a trap located next to the motorway entrance in a distance of about 1 km and 2 more beetles were captured in two traps located at a campsite, which is about 4 km away. Thus, a total of 13 beetles were captured in 2025. Inspections for larvae have not yet led to findings of *P. japonica* at 20 locations around the trap where 10 beetles were captured. Only larvae of *Otiorhynchus* spp. Were found. Additionally, a sniffer dog will be used later in autumn to search for larvae around the trap and in the neighbouring environment. The cooperation with the NPPO in Austria is continued because of findings on both sides of the border.

Update July 2026: 7 more beetles were captured in 2 traps near Lindau. The affected traps are 2 of the additional traps placed within a 1 km radius of the 2024 catches. 6 of these beetles were found in 1 of these add. Traps and 1 in another trap. Further intensive surveys are being carried out.

2nd Update July 2026: 24 more beetles were captured in 5 different traps near Lindau. All the traps are within the 1 km radius, where the pest has been found for the first time in 2024. This time, there were also 5 females among the caught beetles. Sex determination is pending for the two latest catches. 17 beetles are males. In total, 31 beetles were caught in 2026 so far. Due to the large number of beetles and the presence of females, it can no longer be assumed that they are merely isolated hitchhikers. Therefore, a delimiting survey was initiated to identify the infested zone and a buffer zone. Collaboration with the NPPO of Austria is continued.

Update October 2026: During the delimiting survey 29 more beetles were caught in 8 different traps. One of those traps is placed at a different location at a camping site 4,5 km away from the main hotspot near Lindau. In total, 61 beetles were detected in the whole area during this season so far, 10 of them were females. The delimiting survey resulted in the designation of a total of two infested areas, Lindau-Sigmarszell and Lindau-Weißensberg. The general decree was published on 4th September 2026 and has been in effect since 5th September 2026. The area was designated in close cooperation with, and with the provision of information to, the plant protection services of Baden-Wuerttemberg and Vorarlberg (Austria) where part of the demarcated area is located.

Pest status in Germany

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

Adoption of official phytosanitary measures

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

Within the infested zone (IZ) the following measures:

- **movement from turf outside the IZ is forbidden**
- **ban on watering lawns (01.06. - 30.09.)**
- **movement from soil outside the IZ is forbidden**
- **movement from plants for planting (in a pot or with a root ball) outside the IZ is forbidden (01.06. - 30.09.)**
- **movement from unprocessed plant material (like fresh grass or garden trimmings) is forbidden (01.06. - 30.09.)**
- **harvested crops such as fruits must be inspected for and protected from *Popillia*, before being allowed to leave the IZ.**
- **Monitoring of the infested and buffer zone using pheromone traps.**

2nd Update July 2026: A demarcated area will be established. The delimiting survey is going on. The NPPO of AT has been contacted to ensure close cooperation in the border region.

Update October 2026: A demarcated area was established with two infested zones and one buffer zone around them. The total area of the demarcated area (in Bavaria) is 6,215 ha, the area of the buffer zone is 5,427 ha and the area of the two infested zones in total is 788 ha. The area of the

infestation zones was defined based on a 1 km radius around the traps that were effective in 2026. Part of the demarcated area extends into Baden-Württemberg and Vorarlberg (Austria).