



STATE OF IDAHO



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ISDA begins 2nd season of treatment for Japanese beetle in Ada County



Photo by David Cappaert, Michigan State Univ, Bugwood.org

Boise, ID – The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) will begin its second year of the Ada County Japanese beetle eradication program during the week of May 19-23. At that time residential and commercial properties in two treatment areas – one in the Warm Springs Avenue neighborhood and the second off of West State Street in Boise – will receive the first of two granular pesticide treatments to all turf and lawn-covered areas. Simultaneously, Boise Parks and Recreation will treat areas under its jurisdiction and Boise State University will treat selected spots on the campus. The second treatment, also granular pesticide in grass, is scheduled for mid-July.



Areas for treatment were chosen based on data from Japanese beetle monitor traps set up throughout the state. During 2013, 2,999 beetles were captured – all of them in Boise – and where the insects were caught was targeted as the heart of the infestation. This year ISDA will continue to monitor suspect areas with intensive trapping to document information on location of Japanese beetle activity for future treatment as well as to determine the effect of last year's treatment on the population. The public may notice an increased number of green and yellow traps placed in Boise, especially around Boise State University, the Warm Springs area, along West State Street and at various public parks. The traps attract and capture Japanese Beetles and are completely non-toxic. ISDA would ask for the public's help by not disturbing or moving traps.

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Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) was first introduced to the United States in 1916 in plants imported from Japan. Since then it has spread to nearly every state in the eastern half of the United States. The insect is approximately ½-inch long, a shiny metallic green with copper-brown wing covers. Adult Japanese beetles feed on over 300 kinds of plants, including rose bushes, fruit trees and many garden and field crops leaving holes and skeletonized leaves. The larvae, or grubs, live beneath the soil surface and do even more damage by feeding on roots of grass and destroying lawns, golf courses, parks and similar areas. Japanese beetles are considered one of the most aggressive invasive insect pests in the United States. Their presence results in large negative economic impacts as well as environmental degradation due to massive damage to local vegetation and outcompeting native wildlife.

For more information about the Japanese beetle, planned treatment areas, or if you think you have collected a specimen visit www.agri.idaho.gov or contact Paul Castrovillo at 208-332-8627 or Paul.Castrovillo@agri.idaho.gov.

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