



STATE OF IDAHO



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

CELIA R. GOULD
DIRECTOR

March 25, 2015

Dear Resident(s) living in the 2015 Boise Japanese Beetle Treatment Area,

This letter is to notify you that any areas containing grass in the yard of your residence are scheduled to receive treatment for Japanese Beetle control this coming spring and summer. Japanese Beetles (JB) are highly invasive insects from the eastern U.S. that were unexpectedly found in large numbers in Boise beginning in the summer of 2012. In addition to severely damaging turf during their larval stage while feeding on grass roots, adult JB attack and can kill over 300 kinds of ornamental and crop plants, while feeding on leaves, fruit and flowers. They especially like roses, berry bushes, grapes and fruit trees.

To eradicate the insect in this early stage of infestation, all lawns in areas where beetles are found must receive two granular insecticide treatments to kill young JB larvae, which live within the soil. ISDA is in the process of contracting a professional pest control service to conduct these treatments at no cost to you. As has been done in the past, all pesticides will be applied in strict accordance with label directions, and all recommended safety precautions will be stringently followed.

In addition to this letter you can expect to receive notification about treatment approximately one week before each pesticide application: one in May and one in July. You will be informed of the exact date treatment has been scheduled for your property and of any preparations you should make. Once again, the only action planned is ground application of a granular insecticide in areas of your yard containing turf. Nothing will be sprayed with any liquid pesticide. Flower and vegetable gardens, bushes and trees will not be treated – only grass.

At this time we are asking you to send us a record of your consent for the granular treatment of turf on your property using the attached Consent Form or the form on the ISDA website. Please do this before April 8, 2015.

If no treatment was undertaken and JB were allowed to establish in the Boise area, the entire state would become quarantined for the pest. This could result in numerous negative implications for Idaho's plant nursery industry, for homeowners and gardeners, and eventually for Idaho's agricultural growers and producers. The action plan that ISDA has chosen to eradicate JB is closely modeled on a highly effective program used by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to respond to an infestation in a residential area in Orem. JB were first discovered there in 2006 and through efforts like these JB were declared eradicated in 2014.

Because this is the third year of the JB eradication program in Boise most of the concerns and questions from the public can be anticipated and have been addressed in the FAQ Sheet on the Japanese Beetle Project page of the ISDA website. The site also contains information about JB biology, history of the Idaho JB infestation as well as maps detailing treatment plans and trapping data. To access that page please follow the path at: <http://www.agri.idaho.gov/Categories/PlantsInsects/RegulatedAndInvasiveInsects/InsectJapanesebeetleproject.php> or scan the QR code printed on this letter. If the information you are seeking is not there or you have

additional questions or comments please feel free to contact ISDA at (208) 332-8627, or e-mail Paul.Castrovillo@agri.idaho.gov.

History of JB activity and the eradication program in Boise

During 2012, when JB were first found in Idaho in significant numbers, 56 beetles were captured in downtown Boise. The following year Boise JB traps collected 3,058 of them – demonstrating how rapidly JB can multiply, if left unchecked, when introduced into a new area with suitable habitat. Under the Plant Pest Act of 2002 the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has determined that, in order to eliminate the insect before it becomes permanently established, eradication efforts are necessary in Idaho wherever JB presence is confirmed.

In response to the 2012 beetle catches an increased number of survey traps were set up in Boise between May and September, when the adults are active, to attract and catch JB for the purposes of determining and confirming where populations are living and/or moving so that treatments can be targeted effectively.

During the summer of 2013 the first pesticide applications for JB control in Boise were undertaken – on approximately 100 residential properties and 11 city parks where beetle catches were the greatest. Trapping data obtained in 2014 gave the first evidence that the chosen control plan seems to be effective. Overall, beetle catches dropped from 3,058 to 1,283. The parks that were treated produced 60% fewer beetles and the residential area with 100 properties that was treated showed a reduction of nearly 95% (from 1,903 to 91 JB). Conversely, every place where beetles were captured in 2013 that did not receive treatment exhibited increased numbers of JB caught during 2014.

In 2014 the area designated for treatment was expanded from that of 2013 to include approximately 400 new residential/commercial properties, a few new parks and some property on the BSU campus. The new areas were primarily some locations where JB were caught in 2013, but where treatment had not occurred. It is expected that, in line with the 2014 trapping data discussed above, continued beetle reduction should be observed in both the areas re-treated in 2014 as well as those treated for the first time last summer. 2015 treatment plans will continue with this pattern of 1) follow-up applications on property where JB numbers are being significantly reduced (until beetle catches reach zero there) and 2) beginning of applications in new locations where small populations have been discovered – targeting them before they have a chance to grow and spread. In this way, with your help, we hope to once again make Idaho JB-free.

Sincerely,



Paul Castrovillo
Pest Survey and Detection Manager

