

Frequently Asked Questions

Japanese Beetles – Caldwell Eradication Program

1. How can I identify the beetle?

½ to ¾ inch long. Front of body is shiny metallic green. Wing cases are coppery. Body has 5 white tufts of hair along each side. Feeds out in the open on plant leaves, flowers, and fruit, during the daytime.

2. How can I identify the larva?

Found in the soil feeding on the roots of grass. Larva are ¼ to 1 inch long, white and C-shaped, known as “grub.”

3. What stage of the insect causes damage?

The adult beetle and the larva. That is why the pest is so destructive. The grubs feed on grass roots and, if left unchecked, can kill lawns, gardens, golf courses and similar areas. The adults feed on foliage and flowers, skeletonizing them (only the veins remain), and eat fruits and vegetables. When feeding the adults release an aggregation pheromone which attracts other adults.

4. How long do the beetles live?

They have one generation per year. Eggs are laid in the soil during July, grubs hatch from the eggs and feed from July through October then hibernate until spring. When weather warms enough the grubs become pupae from which adults emerge in June to begin the cycle again. Adults live about a month.

5. What is the plan for the areas designated as needing treatment?

In mid-to-late May all grass or turf-containing areas on residential/business properties in the treatment zone will be treated by ISDA with a granular formulation of Acelepryn to prepare the grass to kill grubs as soon as they begin feeding. In mid-July, the same areas will be treated with a granular formulation of Imidacloprid to kill feeding grubs that escape the initial treatment or later-hatching grubs. Gardens and any areas not containing grass will not receive these treatments. Simultaneously property managed by Caldwell Parks and Recreation will be treated in a comparable manner by them.

6. Will my property be safe for children and pets after treatment?

When applied properly, the granular insecticide treatments are safe. The granular insecticides will need to be watered into lawn for a short time to get them to the grass roots, then the lawn needs to dry for approximately 4 hours. After the four hours, the lawn is safe for contact. ISDA is hiring a professional pesticide applicator to carry out treatments correctly. ISDA staff will be available to monitor treatments as they occur. Information on any precautions that need to be

taken (such as keeping your pet indoors until the treatment is complete and the lawn is dry) will be delivered to each property prior to the scheduled treatment.

7. Will I be notified before my property is treated?

ISDA staff will visit every property approximately two days before treatment is scheduled to hand deliver information on the treatment date and approximate time and any precautions we recommend. If you are available at the time, we will be glad to answer any questions. If you are not present, we will leave the information at the residence or business for you.

8. Is there a cost to me for the treatment?

No.

9. How long will the eradication of Japanese Beetles take?

Based on information collected from other western states that have gone through this process (including Boise's eradication program which lasted six years) this eradication is likely to take several years to be successful. Treatment areas may shift from time to time, assuming beetles will disappear from places where treatment has been successful but may also move to infest untreated areas.

10. Is this program mandatory?

Yes. To successfully eradicate JB we must have cooperation from the public, allowing treatment of any areas containing grass in the zones where JB have been collected in survey traps or where beetles have been seen feeding on foliage. To skip treatment of any of those properties would ensure that small "islands" of beetles are being left to continually reinfest surrounding areas.

11. Are there alternative treatments that can be used in place of those selected by ISDA?

Much research went into selecting the survey and treatment protocols as well as the pesticides chosen. Treatment protocols were selected with concern towards safety, efficacy of the treatment and environmental impact. The program selected was selected as the best course presently available to maximize the above conditions.

12. Who can I contact if I have other questions or think I have found Japanese Beetles outside the current treatment areas?

Please feel free to contact the ISDA, Pest Detection and Survey Manager, Idaho State Department of Agriculture, jb@isda.idaho.gov or call 208-332-8620.