

UDAF JAPANESE BEETLE ERADICATION PROPOSAL

Background



Japanese beetle *Popillia japonica* (JB) is a destructive, invasive insect that is not established in Utah. The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) annually places detection traps in all of Utah's 29 counties to monitor for this pest. In 2019, numerous JB were detected via trapping in Salt Lake City's Northwest quadrant and South Salt Lake City's industrial district. UDAF is proposing an eradication plan to prevent the establishment of this pest.

Proposal details

UDAF plans to contract a licensed commercial pest control operator to apply a larvicidal treatment on areas identified as having a high-risk of JB establishment (see maps on the right). One application is scheduled during spring 2020; however additional treatments may be required later in the season, in subsequent years and in other areas. This application will be applied at no charge to residents and property owners.

The spray project's strategy is to control beetles while they are underground in the larval stage. Therefore, the project will focus on treating turfgrass. However bare ground and soil may be treated under certain circumstances. Trees, shrubs and ornamental landscape plants will not be treated.

Safety and pollinator protection: UDAF has selected imidacloprid, a non-restricted use pesticide for the project. The pesticide is proven effective in controlling JB and it has low-mammalian toxicity (safe for people and pets). The pesticide is for sale to the general public and is a commonly used product.

Pesticide enforcement officials will supervise applications to ensure that all federal and state rules are followed, so that residents, water quality and the environment are protected. The state Apiary Program will notify nearby beekeepers in advance of applications and train the pest control company in best practices for pollinator protection.

Results of inaction

If action isn't taken, JB will likely establish in Utah. The state's \$128 million floriculture and \$17 million fruit industry will begin bearing the costs of JB control and damage. Pesticide use is likely to increase significantly in these industries, as well as among landscape managers and residents. Also, Utah's nursery industry will be quarantined by non-infested states. As a result, this industry will suffer costly export market restrictions on their products.

