Invasive Species Council of BC

JUNE 2019

Japanese Beetle and Community Gardens

Japanese Beetle and Community Gardens: How Can You Help?

Background

Japanese Beetle is a serious invasive insect which damages ornamental, horticulture and agricultural plants. The larvae feed on the roots of turf, ornamental grasses and other plants, while adults feed on the flowers, fruits and leaves of over 250 host plant species.

To reduce the risk of the beetle spreading, a **regulated area (RA)** and associated **movement restrictions for soil and plant material** - have been established in Vancouver.

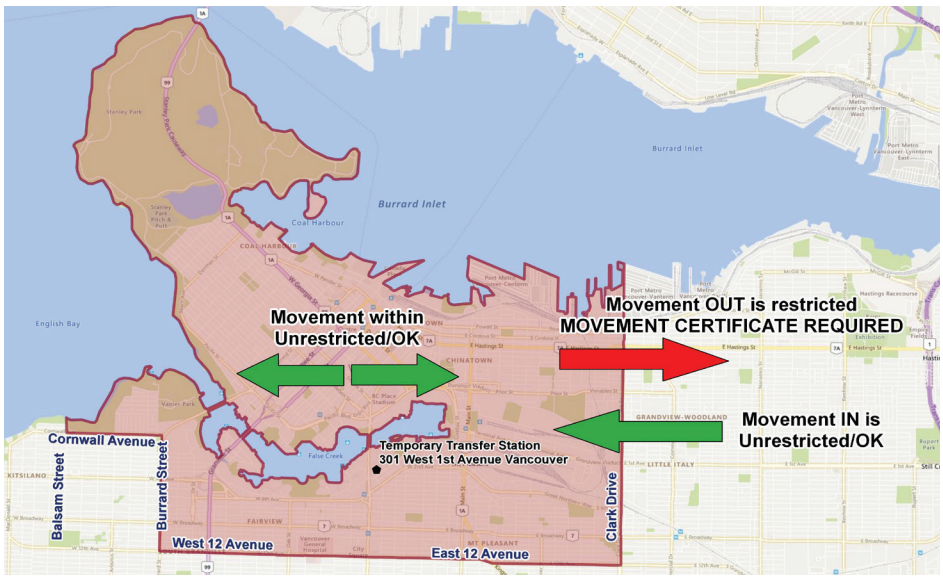
Purpose

Movement restrictions are in effect for soil and plant material from the RA. Although there are no movement restrictions within the RA for fresh fruits and vegetables grown for consumption, there are some best practices gardeners can follow to avoid accidentally spreading this invasive pest.

Regulations – Movement Restrictions for Soil and Plant Material

To reduce the chance of spreading of adult Japanese beetles or larvae, soil and plant material is restricted from being moved out of the RA. Transport may be permitted once a movement certificate is received from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). The following movement requirements are in place until further notice:

- The movement of soil, rooted plants and plant debris with soil out of the regulated is restricted year-round due to presence of eggs, larvae and pupae.
- The movement of above-ground plant material (cut flowers, green waste: grass clippings, prunings, etc.) that is ***free of soil*** out of the regulated area is restricted during the beetle's flight period which is between June 15th and October 15th.



* Movement of material within the regulated area is unrestricted year-round

Community Garden Best Practices

Though fruits and vegetables are deemed to be “above-ground plant” material, those grown for consumption can be moved out of the regulated area freely without restrictions. But beware - adult beetles are excellent hitchhikers and may become hidden amongst the crevices of leafy vegetation or tuck themselves into an ear of corn.

From June 17 to October 18 each year, give harvested produce a good shake to dislodge any hidden beetles, thoroughly wash them free of soil, and complete a good visual inspection of the fruits or vegetables prior to moving them off-site.

If you see suspect adult Japanese beetles, capture them and take high-resolution photographs and send them to CFIA and/or attempt to collect as many beetles as possible in a sealed hard-sided container, place in the freezer then contact CFIA

(contact information on bottom right).

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, Bugwood.org

D. Mueller, Bugwood.org

The Temporary Transfer Station is located at 301 West 1st Avenue in Vancouver and is open from June 17th to October 18th, Monday to Friday from 2 to 6 pm.

Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org

Disposal Options

- Where available, use the City of Vancouver municipal green bins to dispose of community garden plant waste.
- Another disposal option for small amounts of green waste and soil is the Temporary Transfer Station located at 301 West 1st Ave, Vancouver.
- The Temporary Transfer Station is open June 17th to October 18th, Monday to Friday from 2 to 6 pm.
- Do your best to remove as much of the soil as possible from root balls and other plant waste prior to disposal!
- Keep green waste on site for composting or store on site until the beetle flight period window has passed, between October 16th to June 14th, when green waste can then be moved freely.
- Year-round, keep soil on site and reuse it if possible, otherwise obtain a movement certificate from CFIA.

Where to Get More Information

For regulatory movement requirements and movement certificate information please visit the CFIA website at **http://inspection.gc.ca/JB**, email the CFIA at **cfia.wstjb-sj.acia@canada.ca** or call **604-292-5742**.

For general Japanese Beetle information or to be added to our Japanese beetle monthly e-news updates, please visit **www.bcinvasives.ca/JB**