

# WaterWatch



## Facts About the Japanese Beetle Infestation

The Japanese beetle is a small but highly destructive insect that if left untreated will do serious damage to our lawns, gardens and trees, and it could threaten the state's landscaping and fruit industries. We need your help to eradicate this infestation before it grows out of control.

The City has an infestation of the Japanese Beetle. This pest was discovered last July. The affected area is between 800 North and 400 South, State Street to 1200 West. This is a serious problem and if unchecked will lead to serious long-term problems for Orem and spreading outward to neighboring communities as the infestation spreads. There were three town meetings held in March to address this subject.

To combat this pest it will require all residents within the impacted area to cooperate and to follow the directions of the State. The State will be spraying all property within the described area, this spraying will prevent home owners from harvesting vegetables or fruit from their gardens for the next three years. The City is seeking community garden sites outside of the quarantined area to allow impacted residents the opportunity to grow a

vegetable garden over the next three years.

### Japanese Beetle Background Information

The Japanese Beetle (JB) was initially discovered in the U.S. near Riverton, New Jersey in 1916. They were introduced into the U.S. from Asia on nursery stock. Two years later the U.S.D.A. & New Jersey authorities undertook efforts to abolish this pest but the infestation was so well established that extermination became unattainable. There were not adequate monies or control measures in use at this time, and in the course of its first 8 years in the U.S., infestation had bloomed to over 2,500 square miles.



**Enlarged picture of Japanese Beetle. They are normally 1/2 inch long.**

Since its introduction, the JB has swept throughout most of the U.S. east of the Mississippi. Because of the potential of artificial spread, the JB is a great menace to agriculture and flora of the Western U.S. The JB is a highly ruinous plant pest causing both plant damage and increased control costs. Adults attack more than 300 species of plants. Numerous trees, ornamental shrubs & vines, fruits, flowers, vegetables, garden crops, weeds, and field crops could potentially be damaged. The grubs are serious pests of lawns, other grasses, and nursery stock. Because of the ease of shipping grubs with nursery stock & soil, this species could potentially be found about anywhere in the U.S. including Hawaii and Puerto Rico. Adults are highly mobile and frequently 'hitch' rides in airplanes and motor vehicles. The larvae are dispersed in transported soil and nursery inventory. JB control by biological methods or insecticides is often expensive due to the labor, equipment, and/or insecticides involved.

The positive finding of JB in Utah is of major concern. Protecting Utah's healthy \$150 million nursery and tree fruit economy, and the lawns and ornamentals of Orem's residents is and should be a high priority. Doing so will involve a three pronged approach including: treatment of infested area, an

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## Japanese Beetles

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expanded delimiting trapping program, and an expanded detection trapping program in high risk areas.



These will be placed in high risk areas and in habitat suitable for JB propagation. These suitable areas have been determined by vegetation type and traps will be set at 2 per square mile consistent with JBQ. It will be necessary to trap over a number of years to adequately trap these areas.



Eradicating the JB population is a preferred option, while population levels remain low and are confined to a small area. This can be accomplished by treating the infested turf with an insecticide (*Merit*). Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Orem City, and Utah County officials have met regarding this goal and involved parties agree that eradication should be pursued. This is an ongoing process, and will most likely take 4-5 years to eradicate.

Given these facts, UDAF will continue in its efforts to help residents protect their turf and ornamentals from this pest.

For information about the JB and for contact information with the State Department of Agriculture please visit <http://ag.utah.gov/>

We're on the Web!  
[www.orem.org](http://www.orem.org)

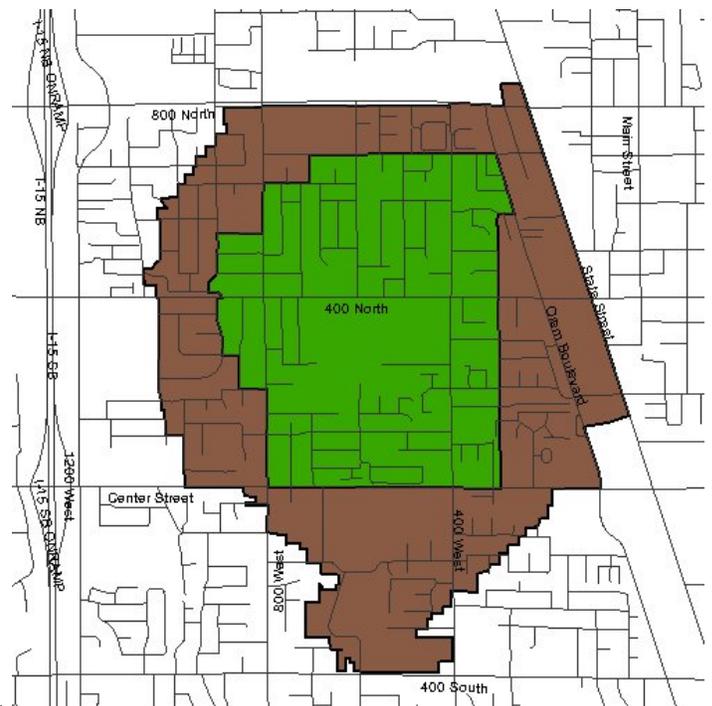
## Used Oil Recycling

The City of Orem Public Works Department is once again accepting used oil and antifreeze. Orem City residents can dispose of 5 gallons per visit of waste oil and/or antifreeze. Waste oil includes transmission oil, motor oil, differential oil, power steering oil and hydraulic oil. Waste oil will not be accepted if it is mixed with dirt, water, trash, paint or any chemicals. Antifreeze will not be accepted if it is mixed with any foreign substance.

You can bring these fluids to our new complex at 1450 W 550 North. Anyone disposing of waste oil will be required to fill out a form. Information needed includes name, address, date and amount of oil being disposed of.

Delimiting trapping protocol will be expanded to comply with USDA/APHIS-PPQ Japanese Beetle Quarantine (JBQ). This is necessary to track the possible spread of JB populations surrounding the current affected area. An estimated total of 449 traps will be set in a 49 square mile area in and surrounding Orem.

Detection traps will be greatly expanded to 3,500 statewide.



**Map of the affected area. Green areas will receive turf and foliar treatments. Brown area will only receive turf treatment.**