

## How to identify *Popillia japonica*?

### Adult beetles

- 10-12 mm long
- "Scarab beetle": end of antenna forms 3 flattened mobile plates
- Bright copper-colored elytra (back)
- **Metallic green abdomen and head**
- **12 tufts of white hair** on the side and back of the abdomen, 5 on each side and 2 larger dorsal tufts on the last abdominal segment
- Occur in the late spring and summer

### Larvae

- Living in the soil
- Typical grubs are hard to distinguish from larvae of other scarab beetles, e.g., cockchafer (Maybug), garden chafer and European rhinoceros beetle.



## Can you help us?

*Popillia japonica* is included in the **EPPO A2 list** and on the **EU list of quarantine organisms**. It is thus a plant-harmful organism that is already locally present in the EU and causes **major damage** there. Therefore, it is important to report if you have seen this insect. **Early detection** allows a rapid and efficient implementation of control measures against *Popillia japonica*, so that this invasive exotic species **cannot establish itself**.

If you spot *Popillia japonica*:

- Does the insect have **white tufts of hair** on the side and back?
- If possible, take a photo of the insect and note the precise location.
- Report via [waarnemingen.be/species/Q-organismen](https://waarnemingen.be/species/Q-organismen)

### More info?

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Veiligheid van de Voedselketen  
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Sources of info and images: (POPIJA) <https://gd.eppo.int>

# STOP *Popillia japonica*!

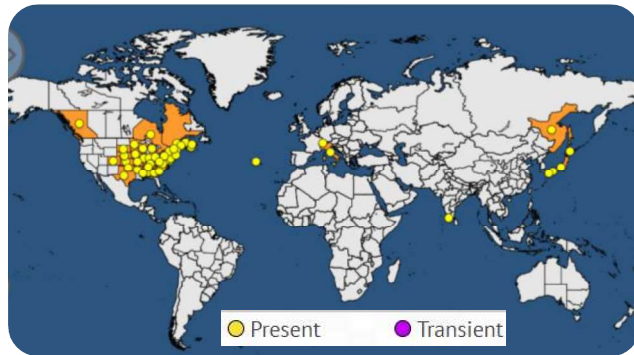
The Japanese beetle

threatens forests, crops and lawn



In collaboration with EUPHRESKO and EPPO [www.eppo.int](http://www.eppo.int)

## Distribution



The Japanese beetle originated from Japan. In 1916, this beetle was reported in the US, and since then, the beetle has spread in the eastern half of the US. Canada, China and Russia are also affected by this pest. Within Europe, the beetle is already established in the **Azores** (Portugal). Some beetles have been found in **Italy** and **Switzerland** and measures have been taken to eradicate this pest.

The beetles are distributed via international trade of **agricultural products**, on **packaging** and ships, or even by **train** as a hitchhiker. The larvae can be transported in **the soil of pot plants**.



## Damage symptoms



The above-ground attack of the Japanese beetle is easily recognizable. The beetles chew the green leaf tissue between the veins, leaving the **leaf skeletons**. They also feed on **flowers** and **fruits**.



The larvae are underground and feed on the **roots**. These symptoms can only be visible aboveground if the root damage is considerable.



## Host plants



The Japanese beetle has a **very broad host range**, up to 300 different species. In Europe, damage to **apple**, **Prunus**, **blackberry**, **vines**, **maize**, **elm**, **linden**, **maple**, **roses** and **lawns** is expected due to their spread and intense cultivation.

