



# STATE OF IDAHO



C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

CELIA R. GOULD  
DIRECTOR

March 20, 2018

Dear Resident(s) living in the 2018 Boise Japanese Beetle Treatment Area,

This letter is to notify you that any areas containing grass in the yard of your residence are scheduled to receive treatment for Japanese Beetle control this coming spring and summer. We are asking you for a record of your consent to allow granular treatment of turf on your property by following the instructions on the enclosed Consent Form, or by using the electronic Consent Form which can be accessed on ISDA's website.

Japanese Beetles (JB) are highly invasive insects from the eastern U.S. that were unexpectedly found in large numbers in Boise beginning in the summer of 2012. In addition to severely damaging turf during their larval stage while feeding on grass roots, adult JB attack and can kill over 300 kinds of ornamental and crop plants, while consuming leaves, fruit and flowers. They especially like roses, berry bushes, grapes and fruit trees. If JB were allowed to establish in the Boise area, the entire state would become quarantined for the pest. This could result in numerous negative implications for Idaho's plant nursery industry, for homeowners and gardeners, and eventually for Idaho's agricultural growers and producers.

In order to avoid this outcome, when the JB infestation was first discovered in Boise, an eradication program was quickly set up to attempt to return Idaho to the JB-free status it has historically enjoyed. The first year that treatment began, in 2013, JB traps in Boise captured 3,058 beetles. In 2014, as a result of the pesticide applications in 2013, overall JB numbers dropped to 1,283. Following a second year of treatment the beetle catch decreased to 365. 128 JB were trapped during 2016 and after another year of targeted treatments last summer only 19 were collected in Boise.

During 2015, ISDA treated 14 Boise parks and nearly 2,000 residential/commercial properties encompassing most of the areas where JB had been captured (about 550 acres of turf). Fortunately, as a result of beetle numbers dropping significantly due to successful treatment - with many locations now appearing to be JB-free again - a large number of formerly treated areas have been removed from the eradication program. For 2018, the proposed treatment area has decreased to only 3 parks and 400 residential/commercial properties (approximately 50 acres). With your cooperation areas requiring treatment will continue to shrink dramatically in the future until the goal of JB eradication is achieved and the program ends.

This successful eradication program will continue unchanged with two granular insecticide treatments applied on all lawns in areas where beetles were trapped last year (for more detailed information on the chemicals being used, their safety and treatment protocol please see the FAQ sheet on the Japanese Beetle Project page of ISDA's website). These treatments, one in May and one in July, will target young JB larvae in the soil. Ground application of granular insecticide in areas of your yard containing turf is the only action planned this season. Nothing will be sprayed with any liquid pesticide. Flower and vegetable gardens, bushes and trees will not be treated - only grass. ISDA has contracted with a professional pest control service to conduct these treatments at no cost to you. As has been done in the past, all pesticides will be applied in strict accordance with label

directions and all recommended safety precautions will be stringently followed. In addition to this letter you can expect to receive follow-up notification about treatment approximately one week before each insecticide application. At that time you will be informed of the exact date treatment has been scheduled for your property and of any preparations you should make.

The Boise JB eradication program has now been in place for several years and, as a result, most of the concerns and questions voiced by the affected public have been addressed in the FAQ sheet on the Japanese Beetle Project page of ISDA's website. The site also contains additional information about JB biology, history of the Idaho JB infestation as well as maps detailing treatment plans and trapping data. If interested, to access that page please follow this link:

<https://invasivespecies.idaho.gov/cooperative-agricultural-pest-surveys-caps>

or scan the QR code printed on this letter. If the information you are seeking is not there or you have additional questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact ISDA at: (208) 332-8627, or by e-mail at:

[paul.castrovillo@isda.idaho.gov](mailto:paul.castrovillo@isda.idaho.gov).

Thanks to all of the affected property owners/residents who have graciously consented to work with us to combat this pest JB numbers are declining dramatically, however, we cannot end the program until JB captures reach zero (or the infestation will just rebuild itself). A few JB were trapped on or near your property during 2017. In order to continue successful JB eradication we need to treat your lawn this year. We are asking for your permission to allow us to treat your property. Please take a look at the enclosed Consent Form and pick the most convenient way (there are several viable options) to get the record of consent to us. Please do this as soon as possible, preferably before April 6, 2018.

Thank you,

Paul Castrovillo, Ph.D.  
Pest Survey and Detection Manager

