

COLORADO



**DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY

Nursery News

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Welcome to the ninth edition of the Division of Plant Industry Nursery News. We publish this newsletter to provide our customers with information about recent developments in the nursery and green industries of Colorado.

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STAFFING CHANGES

Congratulations to Jerry Cochran! Jerry retired in March, after more than 25 years of service with the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Best wishes and a huge THANK YOU to Jerry for his hard work and dedication over the years.

Congratulations also are extended to Rose Viray, who worked closely with the Seed Program for many, many years. Rose also retired earlier this year and we wish her the very best. Brian Allen has taken over the clerical duties for the seed program in conjunction with his nursery program duties.

In May, Laura Pottorff began working with the Nursery, Greenhouse, Seed and Phytosanitary Programs. Some of you may know Laura from her time with Colorado State University Extension. She brings many years of experience in landscape,

nursery and greenhouse plant problem diagnostics, and integrated pest management. Laura is looking forward to working with the nursery and landscape industry. Please feel free to contact her with any questions or comments at (303)239-4153.

FEE INCREASES FOR 2010

Over the past decade expenses have increased in the nursery program particularly relating to operating expenses like gas for vehicles. The nursery registration was last increased in 1999. Due to this, the nursery fund balance has been near zero, making it difficult to continue to maintain programming at current and expected levels.

Therefore, the Nursery Program approached the Colorado Agriculture Commission, and asked that the nursery licensing fee be increased from \$80/year to **\$90.00/year**. Approved by the Ag Commission with the support the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association, the fee increase will take affect in 2010.

Retail seed dealers are also going to see an increase in their annual registration fees as well. During the 2008 legislative session the General Assembly removed \$20,000 from the general funded portion of the seed program budget to help with the overall State budget needs. As a result the seed program cut back on services offered to meet the budget cut. In order to avoid reducing services even more, the Ag Commission granted a fee increase from \$25/year to **\$50/year** for retail seed dealers in 2010.

JAPANESE BEETLE QUARANTINE IN COLORADO

Description

The Japanese beetle adult is a scarab beetle and is approximately one-half inch long and has a metallic green body and coppery wing covers. There are 12 tufts of white hairs bordering the margin of the wing covers. It is a serious pest of grasses, including sod, while in the larval stage. As an adult, it is a voracious pest of over 350 different species of plants in 78 plant families. Preferred hosts include grapes, raspberry, peach, plum, rose, apple, cherry, corn, soybean, Virginia creeper, hibiscus, hollyhock, dahlia, zinnia, elm, horsechestnut, linden, lombardy poplar, willow, crepe myrtle, elder, and evening primrose.

Distribution in Colorado

Originally detected in Colorado in 1995, the first established population was documented in 2003 in the Palisade area on the West Slope. Six years later, efforts to eradicate this population *appear to have been successful*. One to two more years of negative trapping data is required before Palisade can officially be said to have eradicated the beetle.



Figure 1: Japanese beetle adult

In late August of 2005, the Colorado Department of Agriculture placed a small number of traps at a golf course in the southeastern quadrant of the greater Denver-metropolitan area. Japanese beetle was detected. Despite insecticide applications and mass trapping efforts, the metro area population numbers have increased each year and in 2009 there were

preliminary reports of Japanese beetle presence in Pueblo.

QUARANTINE

Colorado's Japanese Beetle Quarantine, effective January 1, 2010, dictates that all nursery material with a root ball size larger than 12 inches, be certified free of Japanese beetle by the exporting States' department of agriculture. There are no exceptions to this quarantine! Anyone (the general public and commercial businesses) importing trees, shrubs, and perennials into Colorado in pots or with root balls larger than 12 inches in diameter must have the plants certified by the quarantined State prior to shipment. Ornamental grasses, regardless of container size and all turfgrass sod must meet quarantine criteria, to be allowed entry into Colorado.

Why Quarantine?

Japanese beetle is most commonly transported to new locations with soil surrounding nursery plants. The quarantine against Japanese beetle in Colorado will help prevent the spread of pests by regulating the transport of nursery material and soil.

The Quarantine is fully supported by the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Industry and many pest control districts in Colorado. It will lessen the pressure of Japanese beetles being transported into the state on nursery stock

What States and Provinces are under quarantine?



The States of AL, AK, AR, CT, DE, GE, IL, IN, IA, KS, KE, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MS, MO, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, ,PA, RI, SC,SD, TN, TX, VE, VA, WV, WI, and the District of Columbia. The Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, Canada.

What plants and products are affected?

- ✿ Soil, compost, and manure
- ✿ Sod
- ✿ All rooted plants in containers or with root balls greater than 12 inches in diameter
- ✿ All ornamental grasses and sedges regardless of size
- ✿ Bulbs, corms tubers, and rhizomes of ornamental plants (these are exempt when free of soil)

How does one meet the quarantine criteria?

A nursery or company selling any of the products listed above must contact their respective State Department of Agriculture prior to shipping into Colorado. The quarantined plant material or product must be accompanied by an **official** phytosanitary document stating **one** of the following options:

- ☞ *Plants were grown in an area free of Japanese beetle based on negative trapping data.*
- ☞ *Plants were grown in a nursery officially accredited to be free of Japanese beetle.*
- ☞ *Plants were treated with approved insecticides.*

Please refer to the official copy of the Colorado Quarantine against Japanese Beetles for more detailed information and approved treatments. It is located on our website at www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi under quarantine.

JAPANESE BEETLE BEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

The Colorado Department of Agriculture takes full responsibility for enforcement of the quarantine and inspection of imported commodities. Since the

beetle is already present in certain areas of the State, *the quarantine is only one piece of the overall management strategy.*

Take an active role. Eradication of this damaging insect from the Denver area can still be achieved- but in order to do this, people and companies involved in the green industries need to take an active role. The state of Colorado does not have the resources to fund eradication efforts.

–**Survey:** The first tool is to conduct your own survey. Inexpensive traps to detect adults can be purchased from a number of vendors. The time to survey is during adult flight in the months of June through the end of September.

–**Control:** Once populations are identified, a control agent needs to be applied. Chemical controls may include Merit and Acelypryn among others. A biological control alternative, insect parasitic nematodes specific to Japanese beetles are also available. Insect parasitic nematodes are microscopic ‘worms’ that are harmless to all vertebrates. Parasitic nematodes are often more complicated to apply in order to be effective. They are, after all, living organisms. For more information, visit us online at www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi or contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 303-239-4140.



RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS/ENFORCEMENT OF THE JAPANESE BEETLE QUARANTINE

The Quarantine will be in place beginning January 1, 2010. In order to enforce the quarantine, a new record keeping rule was approved to document stock that is moving into the state so that pest surveillance activities and inspections can be conducted in the most efficient manner possible.

The new rule language reads:

“26-10.1 Records Required:

All persons engaged in the business of selling nursery stock in this state shall keep records of all shipments of nursery stock imported from outside this state. These records shall be kept for a minimum of three years. Such records shall include the following information:

- 📁 Date stock was received;
- 📁 Name and address of business from which stock was purchased;
- 📁 Kind and type of nursery stock (including genus and species names);
- 📁 Amount of nursery stock received; and
- 📁 Container size, tree caliper or root ball size.”

What do you (the importer of nursery stock) need to do?

1. Keep copies of all records of the stock you bring in from other States. Make sure the records include the information, listed above.
2. If the stock is under the JB quarantine-make sure the load is accompanied by an official phytosanitary certificate. Keep the certificate in your records.
3. Make the records available to CDA inspectors when they come to do a records inspection, nursery inspection or both.

Will there be costs associated with the quarantine?

The actual costs for inspections, investigations and any other activities related to control and

eradication measures such as destruction or treatment for enforcement of the quarantine shall be charged to the producer at a rate of \$34 an hour plus 25 cents per mile.

WHO NEEDS A NURSERY LICENSE?

Anyone who sells or advertises with the intent to sell nursery stock in the state of Colorado must be licensed. The source of the stock, or who grows it, does not matter. This means that individuals or companies that provide or install nursery stock as part of a service, must also be licensed. For example landscapers might purchase nursery stock from a licensed vendor and then ‘resell’ plants to a customer. A nursery license is required regardless of whether or not the landscaper ‘holds’ the plant material or not. Tree collectors also need to have a nursery license. Like the landscaper, a tree collector does not grow the nursery stock, but a collected tree is sold to a potential customer. The sale of nursery stock is the key factor in determining if a license is required.

Some definitions from the Colorado Nursery Act (Title 35, article 26) may help:

35-26-101 (4) **“Collector”** means any person who collects nursery stock for sale purposes.

35-26-101 (11) **“Landscape contactor”** means a person who provides nursery stock for compensation or value as part of a site development or landscaping service.

35-26-101 (12) **“Nursery”** means any grounds or premises on or in which nursery stock is propagated, held, or grown for sale purposes.

35-26-101 (18) **“Place of business”** means each separate nursery, store, stand, sales ground, lot, or any location from which nursery stock is being sold, offered for sale, or distributed.

35-26-106 (1) A person shall not engage in the business of selling nursery stock in this state, nor shall he advertise with the intent and purpose of selling nursery stock in this state, without having first obtained a registration.....The commissioner shall by rule or regulation, establish a registration fee for each place of business.

Reminder!



It is illegal to sell nursery stock door-to-door. A nursery registration is required for each fixed sales location.

NOXIOUS WEED-GIANT HOGWEED

USDA APHIS would like to bring to your attention the Giant Hogweed plant, *Heracleum mantegazzium*. Giant Hogweed is considered by some to be an attractive, unusual plant. It is, however, a federal noxious weed! This means it is unlawful to transport or sell this plant across state lines.



Giant Hogweed was first introduced into North America in the early 1900's from Eurasia. It was particularly popular with arboretums and gardens because of its massive size. It can be found in about a dozen Eastern and Pacific Northwest states as it has escaped into road banks and ditches. This plant may be able to survive in the microclimates created in the Rocky Mountain region, particularly in home gardens.

Currently this weed is not known to occur in wild populations in Colorado. We understand, however, that it is being promoted to the green industry and home gardeners as an interesting plant for home gardens. Caution!!!! Of EXTREME importance, this plant is a public health hazard! Giant Hogweed can cause phytophotodermatitis. Meaning, this plant has been known to cause severe skin irritations, caustic blisters, blotching and scarring of the skin. Contact with the plant juices on human

skin, in conjunction with perspiration and sunlight can lead to painful blisters.

Please be on the look-out for this plant and help us educate others that this is not a plant to promote for home gardens. If you are approached by someone asking you to trade this plant, please remember, trade in federal noxious weeds is not allowed. I ask that you go one step further in explaining why you do not recommend this plant. There are other similar looking, native options available.

Giant Hogweed looks very similar to our native cow parsnip, *Heracleum lanatum*. Giant Hogweed, however differs from cow parsnip primarily in its size. Giant Hogweed is a biennial or perennial and grows from a rosette of leaves. The stems are hollow, 2-4" in diameter, and 8-14 feet tall, with coarse hairs circling the stem at the base of the leaf stalks and purple blotches along the stem. Leaves are lobed, deeply incised, and can get up to five feet across. Flowers are small, white, and numerous, clustered into flat-topped umbels. Fruits containing the seeds are flattened ovals approximately 3/8" long and tan with brown lines.

If you would like further information on this plant, please visit the APHIS website where you can find fact sheets, download a poster, or the species profile. In addition, feel free to contact me as I have posters in the office as well as brochures featuring photos of the plant. Additional websites are listed as well for further information.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/weeds/facts.shtml

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch>

<http://www.invasive.org/species/subject.cfm?sub=4536>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giant_Hogweed

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