

media release

Colorado Department of Agriculture
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CDA Reminder: Japanese Beetle Quarantine Continues

John Deere Landscapes, Inc. Pays \$5,576 Civil Penalty

LAKEWOOD, Colo. – An investigation by the Colorado Department of Agriculture into violations of Colorado's quarantine against the Japanese beetle (8 CCR 1203-21) imposed under the Pest Control Act §§ 35-4-101—116, C.R.S., has concluded with a Stipulation and Order against John Deere Landscapes, Inc.

“This case serves as an important reminder that the quarantine and Pest Control Act are in place to protect our ecosystem from a pest that can destroy our landscapes,” said CDA’s nursery program manager, Laura Pottorff. “The Japanese beetle is the most widespread turf-grass, fruit tree, and ornamental landscape pest in the United States and it is imperative that the quarantine and Act be followed.”

In May and June 2011, John Deere Landscapes, based in Delaware, ordered 207 containers of ornamental grass and 20 trees from an Elkhorn, Nebraska company. Those items were then shipped to Buckley Air Force Base, where they were planted. Elkhorn, NE, is in an area known to be infested with the Japanese beetle. The plants were imported into Colorado and planted without the proper treatment or certification that they were free of the quarantined pest.

Pursuant to the Colorado Pesticide Act, CDA may impose civil penalties of up to \$1,000 for each violation. Under the terms of the Stipulation and Order, John Deere Landscapes was required to

pay \$5,576. The rest of the fine will be vacated in two years if the company complies with all of the stipulation's requirements including providing the location of the plants and hiring a licensed commercial pesticide applicator to appropriately treat the plants.

The Japanese beetle is a highly destructive plant pest that can be very difficult and expensive to control. Feeding on grass roots, Japanese beetle grubs damage lawns, golf courses, and pastures. Japanese beetle adults attack the foliage, flowers, or fruits of more than 300 different ornamental and agricultural plants.

The Japanese beetle quarantine is supported by both the Colorado Nursery industry and Colorado fruit growers. For more information on Colorado's Japanese beetle program, visit www.colorado.gov/ag/dpi and click on "Nursery Program."

Additional Information on the Japanese beetle:

- USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/jb/index.shtml
- Colorado State University

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05601.html>

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Editor's Note: A copy of the Stipulation and Order may be obtained by emailing Christi.lightcap@ag.state.co.us.