



Ministry of
Agriculture

BeetleGONE! (*Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *galleriae*) Q & A

April 2020

Health and Safety Information for BeetleGONE!, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *galleriae*

A foliar biological insecticide being used as part of the Japanese beetle eradication program in British Columbia

What is BeetleGONE!, *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *galleriae*?

BeetleGONE! is registered by Health Canada for application to ornamental plants and turf as a foliar spray for Japanese beetles and some other pest beetles in the family Scarabidae. The active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *galleriae*, a naturally occurring soil bacterium that is toxic to beetles in the Scarab family when ingested. The biological product targets leaf feeding Scarab beetles and will not impact people, pets, mammals, birds, bees, butterflies or other animals.

Why is BeetleGONE! being used for Japanese Beetle in B.C.?

Japanese beetle is a new invasive pest found for the first time in B.C. in the False Creek area of Vancouver in 2017. This pest is a significant threat to parks, lawns, natural areas and agriculture in B.C. As part of a joint response from three levels of government, the Invasive Species Council of B.C. and the B.C. Landscape and Nursery Association, an eradication program is underway to address this threat. One component of the eradication program is a foliar (leaf) treatment in areas where the beetle has been seen on leaves. BeetleGONE! was selected because it has a very favourable health and environmental profile, and does not impact people, pets, mammals, birds, bees, butterflies or other animals.

How will BeetleGONE! be used for Japanese Beetle?

BeetleGONE! will be mixed with water and the solution will be applied directly to foliage of landscape plants in and around David Lam Park, which is the known epicenter of the Japanese Beetle incursion in Vancouver. When adult beetles feed on the treated foliage they will ingest the bacterium. The treatment will be applied up to five times during beetle flight, as determined by pheromone traps in the area. All treatments will be carried out by licensed applicators, and will generally occur at one-week intervals

How do I know BeetleGONE! is safe?

All pesticides registered in Canada are thoroughly evaluated for potential impacts on human health and the environment by Health Canada before they can be used. BeetleGONE! is considered a low risk insecticide by Health Canada and by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Health Canada considers the risk to applicators, bystanders, and people accessing treated turf to be negligible. BeetleGone, and the active ingredient *Bacillus thuringiensis* subsp. *galleriae* is not toxic to mammals.

When is it safe to enter treated areas?

All pesticide labels have a re-entry period which indicates how long to wait before entering treated areas. The BeetleGone label indicates that treated areas can be accessed after the spray is dry. All treated areas will be posted with signs. There will be no restrictions on park access during or after treatments with BeetleGONE!. Only foliage in the landscape beds will be treated with this product, not turf areas.

More Information

For more information on the Cooperative Japanese Beetle Eradication Program, please visit the following websites:

Ministry of Agriculture: www.gov.bc.ca/japanesebeetle

Invasive Species Council of BC: www.bcinvases.ca/japanesebeetle

Canadian Food Inspection Agency: www.inspection.gc.ca/jb

City of Vancouver: www.vancouver.ca/japanesebeetle