

## WSR 23-24-094

## EMERGENCY RULES

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Filed December 6, 2023, 8:53 a.m., effective December 6, 2023, 8:53 a.m.]

Effective Date of Rule: Immediately upon filing.

Purpose: This rule-making order amends chapter 16-470 WAC, Quarantine—Agricultural pests, to expand the boundaries of the internal quarantine for Japanese beetle within Washington state. The quarantine prohibits regulated articles located inside the quarantine area from moving outside of it. The quarantine prevents potentially infested host material from being transported to other parts of the state, thereby limiting the spread of Japanese beetle and protecting noninfested areas from infestation.

Citation of Rules Affected by this Order: Amending WAC 16-470-105.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 17.24.011 and 17.24.041.

Under RCW 34.05.350 the agency for good cause finds that immediate adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule is necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety, or general welfare, and that observing the time requirements of notice and opportunity to comment upon adoption of a permanent rule would be contrary to the public interest.

Reasons for this Finding: Immediate amendment of the rule is necessary for the general welfare of the public. Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica* Newman) is a highly invasive plant pest native to Japan. It has been known to cause severe damage to more than 300 species of ornamental and agricultural plants, including roses, grapes, and hops. Adult beetles damage plants by skeletonizing foliage and feeding on buds, flowers, and fruit. The larvae also damage the roots of plants, such as turf grass. Although this feeding does not always kill the plant, it weakens it and may reduce the plant's overall yield.

In 2021, the department caught 24,048 Japanese beetles in the current internal quarantine area. Throughout 2021 and 2022, the department took extensive measures to reduce the spread of the beetle, with an ultimate goal of eradicating it. Measures that have been taken include treating residential and public properties with pesticide, trapping, and establishing an internal quarantine. Despite these efforts, by the end of the 2022 trapping season, numerous Japanese beetles, which indicate a reproducing population, were caught outside of the currently established internal quarantine area. Due to this, immediate action is needed to expand the internal Japanese beetle quarantine to more accurately reflect the area of infestation in order to prevent the beetles from spreading into noninfested areas.

If Japanese beetle becomes permanently established throughout the state, it could severely threaten several of Washington's agricultural industries. The threat this pest poses is particularly concerning due to the area in which the detections have occurred. There are a number of farms and nurseries in close proximity to the detection sites, growing plant species known to be targeted by Japanese beetle. Not only do these beetles pose a threat to the plants themselves, but if established, they have the potential to impact the availability of export markets for agricultural commodities grown in the area. Expanding the Japanese beetle internal quarantine will help prevent the spread of this invasive pest and protect Washington's agricultural industries, as well as maintain access to national and international markets.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Comply with Federal Statute: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Federal Rules or Standards: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Recently Enacted State Statutes: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted at the Request of a Nongovernmental Entity: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted on the Agency's own Initiative: New 0, Amended 1, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted in Order to Clarify, Streamline, or Reform Agency Procedures: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Number of Sections Adopted using Negotiated Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; Pilot Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0; or Other Alternative Rule Making: New 0, Amended 0, Repealed 0.

Date Adopted: December 6, 2023.

Derek I. Sandison  
Director

## OTS-4226.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-17-068, filed 8/15/22, effective 9/15/22)

**WAC 16-470-705 Areas under quarantine.** (1) Exterior: The entire states of Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, the District of Columbia, the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, and any other state, province, parish, or county where infestations of Japanese beetle are detected are declared to be under quarantine for Japanese beetle.

(a) The director may exempt individual counties of the states under quarantine from meeting the conditions in WAC 16-470-715 if the director determines that:

(i) The state has adopted and is enforcing restrictions on the interstate and intrastate movement of regulated articles that are equivalent to or exceed the restrictions placed on the movement of regulated articles as provided in WAC 16-470-715; and

(ii) Annual surveys are conducted in such counties and the results of these surveys are negative for Japanese beetle; and

(iii) One or more neighboring counties are not subject to an unacceptable heavy Japanese beetle infestation.

(b) A plant health official of any state may request exemption of one or more counties under this subsection. The request must be in writing, and it must state the area surveyed, the survey method, personnel conducting the survey, and dates of any previous Japanese beetle infestations in that county.

(2) Interior: Within the state of Washington, those areas where infestations of Japanese beetle exist are declared to be under quarantine. These areas include the portion of Yakima and Benton counties designated as follows: Beginning within Yakima County at latitude

N46°18'8" and longitude W120°0'26"; thence easterly ((across the Yakima-Benton County line to latitude N46°18'5" and longitude W119°51'39"; thence southerly to latitude N46°16'21" and longitude W119°51'40"; thence easterly to longitude W119°50'25"; thence southerly to latitude N46°13'44" and longitude W119°50'27"; thence westerly to latitude N46°13'44" and longitude W119°51'42"; thence southerly to latitude N46°12'00" and longitude W119°51'42"; thence westerly across the Yakima-Benton County line to latitude N46°12'3" and longitude W119°59'14"; thence northerly to latitude N46°14'39" and longitude W119°59'12"; thence westerly to longitude W120°0'28")) to latitude N46°18'8" and longitude W119°59'11"; thence northerly to latitude N46°19'0" and longitude W119°59'10"; thence easterly across the Yakima-Benton County line to latitude N46°18'57" and longitude W119°50'23"; thence southerly to latitude N46°18'5" and longitude W119°50'24"; thence westerly to latitude N46°18'5" and longitude W119°51'39"; thence southerly to latitude N46°17'13" and longitude W119°51'40"; thence easterly to latitude N46°17'13" and longitude W119°50'25"; thence southerly to latitude N46°16'21" and longitude W119°50'25"; thence easterly to latitude N46°16'20" and longitude W119°49'10"; thence southerly to latitude N46°15'28" and longitude W119°49'11"; thence easterly to latitude N46°15'28" and longitude W119°47'56"; thence southerly to latitude N46°14'35" and longitude W119°47'56"; thence westerly to latitude N46°14'36" and longitude W119°49'11"; thence southerly to latitude N46°12'52" and longitude W119°49'13"; thence westerly to latitude N46°12'53" and longitude W119°51'43"; thence southerly to latitude N46°11'8" and longitude W119°51'44"; thence westerly across the Yakima-Benton County line to latitude N46°11'11" and longitude W120°0'29"; thence northerly to the Yakama Nation Reservation boundary line; thence northerly and easterly, and turning westerly along the Yakama Nation Reservation boundary line to longitude W120°0'28"; thence northerly to latitude N46°14'39" and longitude W120°0'28"; thence westerly to latitude N46°14'40" and longitude W120°1'43"; thence northerly to latitude N46°16'24" and longitude W120°1'42"; thence easterly to latitude N46°16'24" and longitude W120°0'27"; thence northerly to the point of beginning.

