

## **Why The Japanese Beetle Quarantine?**

*By Les Ratekin,*

Primarily an import export issue, the Japanese beetle problem arose when infested nursery stock started arriving from nurseries to our east. Even though the few established infestations in Colorado were being actively treated, we had no way to close the door on reinfestation. It was perceived by other western states that nothing was being done in Colorado to control the spread of the infestation, so several western states began establishing their own quarantines to control the spread of Japanese Beetle into their states. Colorado nurseries looking to ship plants to other western states became aware that if nothing were done, they would lose access to their trading partners in those states.

In March of 2008 a Japanese Beetle committee was formed to address the problem. After more than a year of information sharing with as many stakeholders in the issue as possible it was determined that an amendment to the Nursery Act and development of the quarantine was the most practical plan, establishing Colorado as a Category Two Enforced state.

Approved November 19<sup>th</sup> 2009, the quarantine went into effect January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010. The first full year will be one of education and implementation. Simple record keeping will need to be done and inspections from the Colorado Department of Agriculture will be conducted, but no fines will be issued. Enforcement will begin January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011.

As always your association will be here to help walk you through the process. Information on how to comply will be provided below. This information will also be on the CNGA website at [www.coloradonga.org](http://www.coloradonga.org) under related links. If you have additional questions, you can reach Laura Pottorff with the CDA at [laura.pottorff@ag.state.co.us](mailto:laura.pottorff@ag.state.co.us)

A special member meeting will be held during ProGreen on Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. in room #504. The Japanese Beetle quarantine will surely be an issue of discussion at this gathering and at our Member Outreach BBQs this summer as well. Please plan to attend one or more this Summer.

See You Soon!

*Les Ratekin*