

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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In 2023, the Commission adopted a regulation prescribing measures to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Popillia japonica*¹. It should be noted that this regulation prescribes several eradication measures, including chemical treatment but also other measures that are considered equally efficient against the different life stages of the beetle (larvae or adult). The competent authorities can select those that are best suited for their situation. Some examples include a mass trapping system with lures or an attract-and-kill strategy for adults of *Popillia japonica*, and the prohibition of irrigation of grassland or the use of mechanical milling to destroy larvae in the soil.

Recently the Horizon 2020 project, IPM-Popillia², developed an IPM-Toolbox with a range of sustainable control options for larvae and adults, suitable for sites with low and high pest abundance. Moreover, recent scientific literature³ shows that there are multiple active substances currently approved in the European Union on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 that show effectiveness against this pest.

In addition, Article 53 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 provides for derogations from the regular authorisation procedure for plant protection products (PPPs): Member States may grant temporary emergency authorisations in case of serious threat to plant health which cannot be contained by any other reasonable means. Such authorisations can be extended to PPPs based on active substances that are not (yet) approved in the Union.

Therefore, through the application of Article 53, the Member States have the possibility to authorise efficacious PPPs to fight quarantine pests like *Popillia japonica* if this proves necessary.

¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1584 of 1 August 2023 on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Popillia japonica* Newman and on measures for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas of the Union territory, *OJ L 194*, 2.8.2023, pp. 17–38.

² Horizon 2020 IPM-Popillia project (Integrated Pest Management of the invasive Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica*) <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/861852>.

³ <https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/insect-science/articles/10.3389/finsc.2023.1175138/full#h11>.