

Health Questions and Answers for Lure N Kill JB® in Japanese Beetle Traps

Prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, CalEPA



Q: *What is Lure N Kill JB® and how is it used?*

A: The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) uses Lure N Kill JB® with traps for the detection of the Japanese Beetle, an invasive pest that is destructive to California agriculture as well as homeowner and public park turf and plants. The Lure N Kill JB® packet contains a mixture of ingredients and the Lure N Kill JB® trap consists of a neck with an opening to the outside, a funnel, and a canister. The packets are attached to the outside of the trap neck. The traps are hung on poles and placed in locations to best attract the beetle. The lure ingredients in the packets slowly evaporate into the air and attract the beetle to the traps.

Q: *What are the lure ingredients in Lure N Kill JB® and how do they work?*

A: Lure N Kill JB® has four lure ingredients: japonilure, eugenol, phenylethyl propionate, and geraniol. Japonilure is the chemical released by the female beetle into the air to attract males. The other three ingredients are produced and released by various plants, particularly cloves, peanuts, and roses, and act as food attractants for the beetle. Japanese Beetles are attracted by the lure ingredients to the trap, where they fall into the canister. Since the beetles cannot crawl out of the steep slippery canister sides, they may eventually die. Despite the name “Lure N Kill JB®”, the lure ingredients do not harm the beetles.

Q: *What happens to the lure ingredients in the environment?*

A: Once released into the air, the lure ingredients are generally expected to degrade within hours to days.

Q: *What are the potential health risks to residents from Lure N Kill JB® traps?*

A: No adverse health effects are expected from exposure to the lure ingredients in the air around the traps because air levels are expected to be low and the ingredients have low toxicity. The three food attractant ingredients are approved for use in human food by the US Food and Drug Administration.

Because the lure packet is attached to the outside of the trap and the traps may be hung as low as one foot off the ground, it is possible for residents to touch the trap and make skin contact with the packet. Some lure ingredients may cause skin irritation or sensitization (an allergic-like skin reaction). If a person touches the packet and then the eye, some lure ingredients may cause eye irritation.

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Q: *What is known about the inert ingredients in Lure N Kill JB®?*

A: The US Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the inert ingredients and has approved their use in Lure N Kill JB®.

Q: *What precautions should I take when Lure N Kill JB® traps are placed in my neighborhood or yard?*

A: Do not touch the trap or try to remove it from the pole on which it hangs. If you contact the lure packet or the trap, wash your skin and clothing immediately. Do not touch your eyes.

Q: *What should I do if I feel sick after encountering a Lure N Kill JB® trap?*

A: Call the California Poison Control System hotline at (800) 222-1222 or consult with your physician.

For further information, please contact:

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