



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, April 15, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

ALB Critical Issues Report:

ALB Chemical treatments began in East Chicago, Illinois on April 5, 2004. The Davey Tree Expert Company was awarded the contract for East Chicago and Park Ridge. Park Ridge treatments are scheduled to begin later this month.

FGIS and AMS employees arrived last week to the IL program and will be working on temporary assignment in monitoring the performance of the treatment contracts.

USDA APHIS presented Certificates of Appreciation to six retiring City of Chicago, Bureau of Forestry employees for their work on the ALB program.

The development of the regulatory and environmental monitoring handbooks for the Emergency Response Information System (ERIS) is proceeding. Over the past two weeks, several web based interaction sessions with the contractor and program staff have taken place in order to finalize the design of the mock-up screens for the handbooks.

The New York program has received two contract disputes. One is for a survey contract that ended in mid 2003 and the other for a 2003 treatment contract. The Contracting Officer and the program are in the first stage of addressing the claims. We are in the process of analyzing the arguments presented by the companies and comparing their arguments to the USDA contractor's performance records.

On Thursday April 15th, the NY ALB Management Staff, APHIS Environmental Monitoring Team, and APHIS LPA will be meeting with the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) for Suffolk County Health in order to request an exemption for chemically treating trees on Suffolk County property in 2004. This is the third year

that the program will be meeting before the CAC requesting a treatment exemption. An exemption has been granted for all previous years. There may be some issues this year due to the discovery of imidacloprid in shallow wells placed within our treatment areas.

The post award meeting for the New York treatment contracts is scheduled for April 19, 2004.

The Volunteer Survey Contract has been awarded for Chicago, IL. A post award meeting with the contractor is scheduled for April 29, 2004.

Source: Christine Markham, ALB National Program Director

Cotton Pest Programs Report:

Boll Weevil Eradication - The lawsuit involving program activity in the Northeast Delta Zone of Arkansas was dismissed by a local judge on April 7, 2004. Judge Jay Moody ruled that the Arkansas State Plant Board did, in fact, have appropriate authority to mandate the program, and to charge local cotton growers a reasonable fee for eliminating their boll weevils. This allows program managers in Arkansas to proceed with eradication activities in this final area of the mid-South. This is great news for growers in adjacent areas of Arkansas, Missouri, and west Tennessee, who had incurred significant additional expense in fighting migrating weevils that had poured out of the Northeast Delta over the last few years.

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Pink Bollworm Eradication - Early-season activities are underway in the eradication areas around El Paso, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Juarez, Mexico. Seasonal detection operations are also beginning in the lower San Joaquin Valley of California, protecting nearly 1 million acres of cotton from pink bollworm infestations to the south. Growers in Arizona will be voting later this month regarding proposed expansion of the eradication program into Arizona in 2005. A positive vote, along with cost-share funding for the rearing and release of sterile moths, would set the stage for a timely move into the second of three proposed



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phases for eliminating this important pest.

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Noxious Weeds:

The North Carolina Tropical Spiderwort Advisory Committee met in Raleigh on Monday, April 5.

Attendees were pleased that APHIS is providing \$420,000 in contingency funding. NCDA&CS distributed a draft Compliance Agreement to NCSU researchers with projects at the Cherry Research Farm. Bid solicitation is in process for fumigation of up to 200 acres.

Contact: Al Tasker, (301) 734-5798.

Pine Shoot Beetle:

A bark management protocol has been developed through collaboration among PDMP, CPHST, the National Plant Board, and industry stakeholders which allows pine bark to move from areas regulated for Pine Shoot Beetle (*Tomicus piniperda*) [PSB] to unregulated areas within the USA under the terms of a limited-permit as provided by the 7 CFR regulation. The movement of pine bark is important to mulch and landscape enterprises. The bark management plan offers an alternative to fumigation with methyl bromide for mitigation of risk for movement of PSB.

Contact: Weyman Fussell, (301) 734-5705

Emerging Pest Issue: Giant African Land Snails

APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs has increased their outreach campaign and a new PPQ Pest Alert website was created recently to help get the word out about Giant African Land Snails. Please feel free to distribute the following URL to those who could most benefit from getting the information:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/gas.html>

Since January, a Mollusk Action Plan Working Group has been meeting monthly in conference calls to bring together a New Pest Response Guidelines document for Giant African Land Snails. Because of stepped up SITC activities and concern about these snails illegally traded

by pet stores, teachers, and exotic animal dealers, our working group's efforts were expedited in order to finish drafts of the Survey and Identification sections of the Guidelines. The information for surveys is being prepared in case it is discovered that these snails may have been released from captivity into someone's yard or other in areas. The working group is small but has a good cross-section including malacological identifiers, CPHST scientists, a pest survey specialist, a domestic officer with treatment experience, and State of Florida representatives.

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SOD:

On Friday April 9, PPQ implemented new restrictions on the interstate movement of hosts and associated articles from all commercial nurseries in California that are outside the 12 quarantined California counties in the form of an emergency order. The order can be viewed on the PPQ web site at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/RestrictingNurseryStockCA040904.pdf>

On April 13 and 14 PPQ hosted a meeting with National Plant Board members in Riverdale, MD to discuss the SOD Program with a focus on the provisions of the April 9 emergency order. Participants were briefed on the current PPQ emergency order and other program related issues and had an opportunity to discuss the program. On the second day of the meeting, NPB members met in breakout groups to discuss various aspects of the emergency order.

P. ramorum has been confirmed in plants traced forward from the initially positive Los Angeles County wholesaler in 7 states. The number of nurseries or garden centers with positive samples by State are CA (12), FL (5), WA (4), OR (6), GA (5), LA (4), and VA (1). Two of WA's confirmed positives were found in 2 nurseries with no apparent direct ties to the wholesaler.

The number of States that have promulgated their own regulations to prevent the movement of suspect plants from California remains at 15. Several States are also



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regulating plants from Oregon, Washington, or British Columbia. Alabama dropped its regulations of plant material from British Columbia this week.

Nationally, 1,231 nurseries or garden centers received material from the initially positive Los Angeles County wholesaler. Six hundred eighty-six state and/or federal holds have been placed involving 129,481 plants. A confirmed positive mail order nursery in San Diego County shipped potentially infected plants to over 6,000 customers. A letter from PPQ advising these customers to contact their State departments of agriculture for proper handling of the plants will be sent from PPQ next week.

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