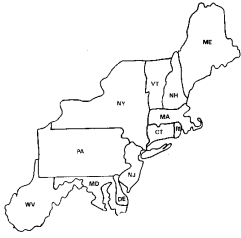


# EASTERN PLANT BOARD



Carol Holko, President  
Plant Protection and Weed Mgmt.  
Maryland Dept. of Agriculture  
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-5920

Dana Rhodes, President Elect  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17110  
(717) 772-5205

Piera Siegert, Secretary-Treasurer  
Division of Plant Industry  
New Hampshire Dept. of Agriculture,  
Markets & Food  
State Lab Building  
29 Hazen Drive  
Concord, NH 03301  
(603) 271-2561

## Benefits of Eastern Plant Board (EPB) Membership

- EPB membership entitles the state to membership in the National Plant Board (NPB). The NPB is an organization of all US state plant regulatory agencies working together to ensure a wholesome and abundant supply of agricultural products. The NPB uses members-only listservs and a secure area on its Website to share timely information and request feedback on important phytosanitary issues.
- Member states enjoy networking opportunities with colleagues to share experiences and learn from each other. Sometimes this results in sharing resources which has occurred related to the outbreaks of Asian longhorned beetle in NY and MA and emerald ash borer in MD, or informing hot legislative topics such as pollinator health and hemp initiatives.
- States can work collectively as a region to get issues elevated to the national level, providing a greater collective voice. The EPB was able to increase the awareness of the threat of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). Through the EPB work via the NPB the US Forest Service established a HWA management plan focusing on all regions of the country.
- Member states collaborate to bring uniformity to state plant pest regulations. The Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan, adopted in 1998 and updated periodically, is an example of a coordinated program that provides consistency in states' regulation of a plant pest that is no longer domestically regulated by USDA.
- Member states regularly share information about mitigation, current science, and compliance with state quarantines regarding state regulated pests of mutual concern such as Thousand Cankers Disease of Walnut.
- The NPB and EPB work directly with professional and industry organizations such as the National Association of State Foresters and AmericanHort to bring valuable perspective to policy decisions.
- Membership offers improved awareness about funding opportunities such as Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) and the U.S. Farm Bill. EPB member states participate in Farm Bill review teams to help bring states' perspectives to this important federal agricultural policy and funding tool.
- The EPB annual meeting attracts not only colleagues from other states, but also from federal agencies, in particular USDA, and NAFTA trading partners. This provides a forum to discuss issues of concern with key federal decision makers, and learn about export requirements that help to ensure market access for state products.
- Members have opportunities to provide representation from the EPB on a number of national committees. For example, currently EPB members participate on NPB Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) committees and participate in a nursery pilot program to enhance uniformity, increase efficiency, and reduce plant pest distribution.

*February, 2015*

### Member States

Connecticut • Delaware • Maine • Maryland • Massachusetts • New Hampshire  
New Jersey • New York • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • Vermont • West Virginia