

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2013-37
August 27, 2013

SUBJECT: Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) in California

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On July 24, 2013, PPQ confirmed the first U.S. detection of Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus (CGMMV) in a sample taken from a melon seed field in Yolo County, California. The virus, which occurs in certain areas of Europe and Asia, is a tobamovirus that affects cucumber and melon.

PPQ is working closely with its State and County cooperators to determine the size and scope of the infestation and the appropriate next steps. Since the initial find, three fields adjacent to the infected field have also tested positive for CGMMV. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and County officials have placed a hold on all of the confirmed fields and are working to identify equipment used in these fields.

PPQ is forming a technical working group to develop disposal, treatment, and sanitation protocols; determine the feasibility of virus spread through irrigation runoff; suggest mitigation methods for the infected fields; and provide guidance for future farming operation in the infected areas.

CGMMV affects cucumber and different types of melons and is seed-borne; the virus spreads in the field by pollen, irrigation water, and contact with equipment, people, and animals. Available literature reports yield losses of about 15 percent in cucurbitaceous crops.

For more information about CGMMV, you may call Deborah McPartlan, National Policy Manager, at 301-851-2191 or Robert Bailey, National Operations Manager, at 970-494-7569.

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