

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2009-55
October 29, 2009

SUBJECT: Pennsylvania Declared Free of Plum Pox Virus (PPV)--Removal of Federal Quarantine

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On October 29, 2009, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced that through a successful 10-year partnership with the State of Pennsylvania, PPV has been eradicated from the entire State.

After the initial detection of PPV in Adams County, Pennsylvania, APHIS established provisions to address plant pest risk associated with the disease. Since that time, APHIS has been conducting eradication activities, in cooperation with the State of Pennsylvania.

Based on 3 years of negative survey results, which included all orchards and residential properties with host plants within the quarantined areas, APHIS determined that the State of Pennsylvania has met the criteria for removal of the last remaining quarantine areas for PPV in Adams County. The survey method included collection of leaves from host plants and testing for PPV using a standard ELISA test. Quality control and backup testing were done using PCR testing.

The attached Federal Order immediately removes the following quarantine areas for PPV:
the State of Pennsylvania: Adams County: the townships of Latimore and Huntington.

PPV is the world's most devastating viral disease of stone fruit species, such as peaches and plums. Infection eventually results in severely reduced fruit production and blemished, misshapen fruit. The disease is transmitted by a number of different aphid species and spread over longer distances by movement of infected budwood and nursery stock.

In 2006, PPV was detected in New York and Michigan. The detection of PPV in Michigan was from a single plum tree located at the Michigan State University facility located near Benton Harbor, Michigan. This disease has since been eradicated and through trace-forward and trace-back investigations, no other areas in Michigan were found to be infected with PPV. PPV is currently present in Niagara, Orleans, and Wayne counties in New York. Survey and eradication efforts, in cooperation with the New York Department of Agriculture, are currently ongoing.

For additional information on PPV, please contact Stephen Poe, National Program Manager for Plum Pox Virus, at Area Code (301) 734-8899.

/s/ Michael A. Lidsky /for

Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

1 Attachment:
-Federal Order

FEDERAL DOMESTIC QUARANTINE ORDER
Plum Pox Virus (PPV)
DA-2009-55
October 29, 2009

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article, if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States and is likewise issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act found at 7 CFR 301.74

Regulations for Plum Pox Virus (PPV) were first promulgated on September 14, 2000, due to the detection of this exotic plant virus. Also known as Sharka, PPV is the most devastating viral disease worldwide of stone fruit, causing yield losses to growers and reducing the marketability of fruit. The regulations located at 7 CFR 301.74 established provisions to address plant pest risk associated with PPV. Since that time, APHIS has been conducting eradication activities in cooperation with the State of Pennsylvania.

The APHIS Administrator has now determined PPV to be eradicated in the State of Pennsylvania based on three years of negative survey, which included all orchards and residential properties with host plants within the quarantine areas. The survey method included collection of leaves from host plants and testing for PPV using a standard ELISA test. Quality control and backup testing was done using PCR testing.

The purpose of this Federal Order is to remove the following quarantine area for PPV:

The State of Pennsylvania: Adams County: The townships of Latimore and Huntington.

The Administrator has determined that the townships of Latimore and Huntington in Adams County, Pennsylvania, meet the criteria for removal from the quarantine area and are therefore delisted from the PPV quarantine.

This Federal Order updates the list of quarantined areas in 7 CFR 301.74 and will be immediately followed by an interim rule.

Determination to Delist Quarantine Areas:

The Administrator will make the determination to delist quarantine areas based on three years of negative survey. This will include all orchards and residential properties with host plants in the quarantine areas. The survey method should include a collection of leaves from host plants and testing for PPV using a standard ELISA test. Quality control and backup testing will be done using PCR testing.