

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION  
DA-2009-10  
March 5, 2009

SUBJECT: Deregulation of Swede Midge (*Contarinia nasturtii*) as a Quarantine Pest

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

We are removing regulations for, and changing the status of, swede midge, *Contarinia nasturtii* (Kieffer), from a reportable/actionable pest to a non-reportable/non-actionable pest effective April 1, 2009. It is unlikely that swede midge can be eradicated from the North American continent. Regulating movement of host material using compliance agreements or other regulatory measures is impractical because the pest is difficult to detect until damage is evident and would create undue burden on the regulated industries. Pest management will be required to slow the natural spread of swede midge to all areas and regions that predictions suggest it may spread.

Swede midge is a pest of *Brassica* and other related crucifers. The family *Cecidomyiidae* contains fly species such as *Contarinia* that have caused economic damage to vegetable crops in the United States and Canada. Host crops include brussels sprouts, cauliflower, cabbage, rutabaga, canola, collards, horseradish, kale, and turnip. Good management practices minimize the impact of swede midge damage on *Brassica* crops. These include: crop rotation so that *Brassica* crops are grown one year out of four for a given field, removal of end-of-season crop residues so that populations cannot build up on lateral buds and suckers, cleaning of equipment prior to moving out of infested areas so no soil or crop residue is moved, removal of weedy *Brassica* hosts in fields especially in fence rows and protected areas, use of crop-protective netting with a mesh size that prevents oviposition by female midges, insecticide management timed to kill ovipositing female midges in areas of potential population buildup, and systems approaches for crop harvest that eliminate swede midge from the packing houses along with risk of spreading the pest to non-infested regions.

The first North America detection of swede midge occurred in Canada in 2001. Swede midge is now present in regions of Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, Canada. In September 2004, the first detection of swede midge occurred in the United States in Niagara County, New York. Subsequent detection efforts for swede midge in New York have resulted in additional finds every year from 2004 to 2007. Swede midge was subsequently positively confirmed in portions of Connecticut, New York, and Vermont.

Information regarding best management practices to reduce the impact of the swede midge can be obtained through land grant universities, State cooperative extension services, and State departments of agriculture.

**/s/ David Kaplan for**

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