



EASTERN PLANT BOARD

Ann Gibbs, President
Division of Plant Industry
Maine Dept. of Agriculture
28 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0028
(207) 287-3891

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

2006 Resolution No. 6 BLITZ Training and Coordination

Whereas the Red Imported Fire Ant Workshop identified the application and benefit derived from organized weigh station “blitzes” in safeguarding American plant resources from invasive organisms and quarantined pests such as the Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, gypsy moth, red imported fire ant, and golden nematode, the adoption and implementation of this strategy by the states is hindered by a general lack of know-how and guidance.

Whereas a number of states in the Eastern Plant Board have expressed an interest in participation in a coordinated blitz across the northeast, and involvement of other APHIS entities such as SITC, IES, and VS would enhance efficiency and the safeguarding value of such a blitz, targeting a wide variety of illegal organisms and products, guidance is sought from USDA-APHIS to train and organize state cooperators. Assistance is also sought for the development of a guidance document for states in planning for blitzes. The guidance would include identification and role of cooperators, coordination of authority and investigative techniques, enforcement and penalties.

Resolved, By the Eastern Plant Board at the 81st annual meeting in Rehoboth Beach, DE on April 6, 2006, to request that the USDA-APHIS organize and provide training for an organized blitz across states in the Eastern Region. Furthermore, we ask that such blitzes be regularly scheduled and funded at the Federal level.

Distribution:

Dr. Ron Dehaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Bob Ehart, NASDA

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