



Animal and Plant  
Health Inspection  
Service

Plant Protection and  
Quarantine

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March 6, 2020

Ms. Julie C. Van Meter  
President, National Plant Board  
c/o Bureau of Plant Industry  
Nebraska Department of Agriculture  
PO Box 94756  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4756

Dear Ms. Van Meter,

Thank you for your letter of August 29, 2019, regarding the National Plant Board's (NPB) access to information about new pest detections. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection's Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) acknowledges the importance of sharing information with our state partners in a timely manner.

PPQ explored the possibility of providing additional information about new pest detections via the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS). This system notifies subscribers when pests are recorded as new to county, State, or the country. It captures information about the pest, its host(s) or associated plants, the habitat where the pest was found, and the date and county where the pest was observed. Because NAPIS does not contain fields to capture any other data, we are unable to use this system to share additional information via NAPIS announcements.

However, there are some important pest information resources that States can access immediately, including:

#### **Global Pest and Disease Database (GPDD)**

GPDD is an exotic pest information archive that includes host and plant hardiness zone information for many pests. The database incorporates information from various sources into a single repository of pest taxonomy, identification, biology, distribution, hosts, significance, detection and control information. GPDD currently contains information for over 6,000 pests that are not known to be in the United States or that are present but with a limited distribution. States can access GPDD at <https://www.gpdd.info/>.

#### **Pest Lens**

Pest Lens (<https://pestlens.info/>) is a repository of analytical resources completed by PPQ, including New Pest Response Guidelines, Objective Prioritization of Exotic Pests analyses, some pest specific and economic analyses, weed risk analyses, and early warning articles. We may add other products, including a list of completed Technical Working Group report summaries, at a later date. It is important to understand that the products in Pest Lens are snap shots of knowledge at a particular point in time to inform decision making in that moment. PPQ does not routinely update the products as the situations evolve or new information becomes available.

#### **CAPS Program Resource and Collaboration Site**

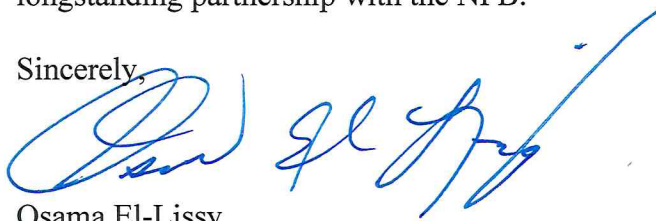
The CAPS site (<http://caps.ceris.purdue.edu/>) has many exotic pest resources, including pest datasheets and host matrices. We are currently working with Oregon State and North Carolina State Universities to develop new, state-of-the-art pest risk maps based on past and forecasted weather models. The maps, which can be used in risk analyses and survey programs, will allow us to predict, with greater accuracy than previously possible, the probability of pest establishment and pest events.

**New Pest Advisory Group (NPAG) Reports**

PPQ will continue to share NPAG reports through the State consultation process.

States that need help accessing these resources should contact Assistant Deputy Administrator Paula Henstridge by phone at (202) 799-7158 or email at [paula.henstridge@usda.gov](mailto:paula.henstridge@usda.gov). Thank you again for your letter identifying issues that are important to the NPB. PPQ appreciates its longstanding partnership with the NPB.

Sincerely,



Osama El-Lissy  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine