



# EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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2014 Annual Meeting  
Princeton, New Jersey

## SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL CAPS MEETING

**The Eastern Plant Board believes that a national Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) meeting furthers the goals of the CAPS Program to provide a survey profile of exotic plant pests in the United States. This program provides early detection and surveillance activities for pests of regulatory significance to federal, state, and tribal governments, and other cooperators. The risks posed by these pests impact agro- ecosystems, products and stakeholders throughout the US, therefore requiring a national response. A national CAPS meeting is necessary to coordinate detection and delimiting survey activities that facilitate this national response through coordination and cooperation between key personnel including: State Survey Coordinators, Pest Survey Specialists, Subject Matter Experts, and impacted industries.**

**WHEREAS** The CAPS Program is a model federal-state partnership and is an important part of each state's pest response program.

**WHEREAS** Awareness of national and regional plant pest concerns is enhanced through workshops and direct meetings, like those that occur at the national CAPS Meeting, the last of which occurred in 2010.

**WHEREAS** Funding for the national CAPS meeting is critical to states but has been insecure for several years resulting in states developing work plan budgets which do not account for attendance at a national CAPS meeting.

**WHEREAS** States may lack funding to send their State Survey Coordinator and State Plant Regulatory Official to a national CAPS meeting unless included as part of the CAPS work plan budget plan.

**WHEREAS** efficiencies are gained by coordinating CAPS with other line item pest and Farm Bill surveys.

**RESOLVED** by the membership of the Eastern Plant Board at its 89th annual meeting in Princeton, New Jersey on April 10, 2014, that APHIS commit to funding a national CAPS Meeting and that this commitment occur in advance of the CAPS work plan submission process, or allow amendments to state's work plans in order to facilitate attendance by State Survey Coordinators and State Plant Regulatory Officials at this meeting.

**Distribution:**

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