



SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD  
April 9-12, 2006  
Savannah, Georgia

**RESOLUTION No. 10**

**DIAGNOSTIC AND TAXONOMIC SUPPORT FOR COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY (CAPS)**

Alabama  
Arkansas  
Florida  
Georgia  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Mississippi  
North Carolina  
Oklahoma  
Puerto Rico  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Virginia

Recent enhancements in the CAPS Program have substantially improved pest survey and detection activities at both the state and regional levels. With these program enhancements, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of samples and screening activities needed for rapid response. The significant increase in the volume of samples, coupled with the corresponding target pest diversity, have triggered the need for personnel dedicated to screening samples, identification of qualified private taxonomic and diagnostic sources and development of identifier staff needed to serve states and the USDA, APHIS, PPQ.

At the present time, CAPS Program staff are canvassing State Survey Coordinators to identify those surveys requiring taxonomic support and expected number of samples across the nation. Screening, diagnostic, and taxonomic support serve as critical components in early pest detection of invasive plant pests and in the initiation of a rapid response needed to mitigate their impact and formulate eradication plans.

**RESOLVED** by the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia on April 12, 2006, that USDA, APHIS, PPQ, in collaboration with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), secure funding necessary to implement the recommendations found in the *Safeguarding American Plant Resources (1999) Report*. These recommendations include the following:

- ▶ Dedicate a National Identification System (NIS) staff position to coordinate taxonomic support for domestic programs and to establish a virtual lab linking existing NIS diagnostic resources with available expertise outside of NIS for domestic study.
- ▶ Augment the NIS diagnostic system in order to provide a virtual clearinghouse for specimen to be identified.
- ▶ Contract with external specialists, via cooperative agreements, to provide their services for confirmation of species that are not readily categorized by National Invasive Plant Pest Laboratory staff.
- ▶ Utilize highly competent taxonomists and systematists from a variety of institutions.

Motion by: Richard Gaskella

Seconded by: Shashank Nilakhe

**Distribution:**

Honorable Michael Johanns, Secretary of Agriculture, USDA  
Dr. Chuck Lambert, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Program, USDA  
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS  
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Vic Harabin, Eastern Regional Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Phil Garcia, Western Regional Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA  
Gus Douglas, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA  
Bob Ehart, NASDA  
Ken Rauscher, President, National Plant Board  
Regional Plant Board President

**Contact Address:**

Gray Haun  
Division of Regulatory Services  
Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture  
P.O. Box 40627  
Melrose Station  
Nashville, TN 37204

**President** Gray Haun, Tennessee (615) 837-5338  
**Vice President** Gene Cross, North Carolina (919) 733-3930, Ext. 218  
**Secretary-Treasurer** Sancho Dickinson, Oklahoma (405) 521-3864