



SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD

April 9-12, 2006

Savannah, Georgia

RESOLUTION No. 9

TROPICAL SODA APPLE

Alabama

Arkansas

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

Mississippi

North Carolina

Oklahoma

Puerto Rico

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Virginia

Tropical Soda Apple (TSA), *Solanum viarum* Dunal, is a noxious weed that continues to pose a serious threat to the Southern tier regions of the United States. First identified as a noxious weed threat in the early 1990's, TSA has continued to spread in Florida as well as infest other Southeastern states. The State Tropical Soda Apple Task Force was organized in Florida in the mid-1990's and was expanded in scope in 2000 to include other states being adversely impacted by TSA. The Regional Tropical Soda Apple Task Force (RTSATF) prepared several documents, including a management plan and memorandum of understanding, designed to assist with TSA management and mitigation at a multi-state level.

Through the task force, research, regulatory, survey, control, public information, and education initiatives have been developed, assigned, and implemented. Progress continues to be made in the development of more effective TSA control techniques including chemical, cultural, and biological control methods; however, additional work is needed to bring several important projects to completion. Key projects include biological control using insects and pathogens to attack and reduce TSA population and the development of best management practices (BMPs) that incorporate herbicides that drastically reduce the amount of product needed to control TSA.

The USDA-APHIS-PPQ has been an integral part of the RTSATF and supportive of measures set forth designed to mitigate the impact of this federally listed biological invader.

RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia on April 12, 2006, requests that the USDA-APHIS continue to support the TSA methods development work necessary to continue the biological and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies that are under way that will benefit multiple Southern tier states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding in the amount of \$400,000 be made available from the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Noxious Weed and Biological Control Program to support the continuation of this important work.

Motion to adopt: Shashank Nilakhe
Seconded by: Harry Fulton

Distribution:

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
Gus Douglas, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA
Richard Kirchhoff, Executive Vice President and CEO, NASDA
Bob Ehart, NASDA
Ron Sparks, President, SASDA
Ken Rauscher, President, National Plant Board
Regional Plant Board Presidents

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