



SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD

April 15-18, 2007

Lexington, Kentucky

RESOLUTION No. 7

Enhanced Funding of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey Program based on State-level Pest Introduction Risk Analysis and Pest Surveys of National Concern

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

The Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program is a combined effort implemented by Federal and State agencies to conduct surveillance, detection, and monitoring of agricultural crop pests and biological control agents. CAPS is charged with (1) detection of exotic pests, thorough survey and identification activities in the field and laboratory, before they can become established; and (2) the collection and management of survey data for state-level data bases and a national electronic information exchange system and data base - the National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS).

One of the most critical areas of need identified in the Safeguarding Review was the strengthening of the pest detection infrastructure, including development of a more effective system for prioritizing pest detection activities. As a result, the USDA FY 2002 supplemental appropriation provided \$25 million in pest detection funds. These funds were utilized for critical needs such as surveys to support ongoing emergency programs and other pest management programs and to support a stronger federal-state cooperative pest detection program. CAPS was charged with invasive plant pest detection and response priorities and with implementing proactive survey and detection activities in the United States. CAPS also works with the USDA-APHIS-PPQ and other agencies to incorporate the pest lists, PPQ interception data, existing pest detection databases, and other data into a linked database that can be used for multiple purposes, such as risk assessment, resource allocation, staffing, strategic planning, and operational planning.

CAPS program has succeeded in early detection of several noteworthy exotic plant diseases or pests. Detections of soybean rust (*Phakopsora pachyrhizi*) in 2004 and 2005 in Florida's 11,000 acres of soybeans, as well as kudzu sites, were essential predictors for the 73 million acre US soybean crop (\$18 billion in 2003). In a 2005 Florida CAPS initiative, a targeted huanglongbing, or citrus greening, survey in Miami-Dade Co. found two citrus trees in separate locations showing symptoms of this fatal citrus disease. The citrus industry contributes \$9 billion a year to the Florida economy. The Swede midge, *Contarinia nasturtii*, a serious pest of crucifers, was detected in New York in 2004 through a CAPS survey. Cabbage alone is an \$87 million annual crop in New York. In 2005, a single sirex woodwasp, *Sirex noctilio*, was identified in a sample collected as part of the New York State CAPS National Exotic Wood Borer and Bark Beetle Survey. The sirex woodwasp is a major pest in exotic pine plantations in the Southern Hemisphere. These early detections are essential to successful mitigation of the damages caused by these newly arrived exotic pests.

Inadequate funding still limits the effectiveness of the CAPS program at the state and national levels. The current program funding of approximately \$6 million, when distributed across 50 states, is sufficient only to support one state survey coordinator and a handful of small-scale survey programs per state. However, in high-risk sentinel states in the eastern region (FL, NY), the special allocation of funding above the \$100,000 state limit has clearly resulted in early detection successes. The low level funding for the remaining states translates to few fully-supported surveys for critical national target pests.

RESOLVED That the Southern Plant Board, at its annual meeting held in Lexington, Kentucky on April 18, 2007, requests that USDA-APHIS-PPQ preserve the intent of early pest detection of the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program and increase the funding to states in order to improve early detection of the increasing numbers of introduced exotic pests. An adequate minimum or core level of funding should be provided to all states that are willing to participate, with additional funding to be allocated based on a state-level pest introduction risk analysis (SPIRA). The SPIRA should consider international seaports, airports, import agricultural commodity tonnage, foreign visitor traffic, and other relevant pathway data as well as climate and host plant availability that occurs in each state. In addition, the survey targets should be on approved lists constructed for surveys of pests of national and state concern.

Motion to Adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, SPB Resolutions Committee
Seconded by: Richard Gaskalla

Distribution:

Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA- APHIS
Cindy Smith, Associate Administrator, USDA-APHIS
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Vic Harabin, Eastern Regional Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Phil Garcia, Western Regional Director, USFA-APHIS-PPQ
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SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD
April 15-18, 2007
Lexington, Kentucky

RESOLUTION No. 6

CITRUS HEALTH RESPONSE

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

Citrus production is important to the agricultural economy of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Texas. In Florida alone, it contributes \$9 billion annually to the state economy. In Texas, citrus contributes approximately \$200 million each year. Further, there is a developing Satsuma industry in Alabama and although seriously damaged by Hurricane Katrina, the Louisiana citrus industry is rebuilding. Citrus fruit such as oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and other mandarin type-fruit such as Satsumas are an important part of a healthy diet and enjoyed by people throughout the country. In some cultures, citrus is an important part of cultural traditions and ceremonies, including the distribution of bouquets of kumquats for Chinese New Year. Even in colder states, people enjoy having a citrus plant for their patio or greenhouse.

Unfortunately, this vital industry is being threatened by the introduction and spread of serious exotic citrus pests and diseases such as citrus canker, citrus greening and the Asian citrus psyllid, the vector for greening. In addition, many exotic pests exist that are likely to be introduced in the future. For over 10 years, Florida and USDA-APHIS worked to eradicate citrus canker. However, legal impediments, coupled with the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, resulted in disease spread beyond the point of economically feasible eradication. Further, it is not possible to eradicate citrus greening once introduced because infected plants can remain symptomless for several years. Florida citrus growers have now implemented management plans for these pests and diseases, along with strict new regulations governing the production of citrus nursery stock within protective structures so that they will be disease free. These measures, which are the result of an effort between regulators and growers in all U.S. citrus-producing states and the USDA-APHIS, are outlined in the Citrus Health Response Plan. This plan has now been implemented into the Citrus Health Response Program in Florida, and even non-infested states are actively using this plan in conducting their citrus pest surveys. It is imperative that USDA-APHIS continue to adequately fund Citrus Health Response initiatives in all citrus-producing states in order that surveys for exotic citrus pests may be continued for early detection management or eradication of these pests. It is also vital to these industries that biologically justified regulations be promulgated to allow for the orderly interstate movement of fresh citrus fruit, citrus nursery stock and other citrus products. Effective certification protocols have been developed and implemented in Florida that could be used as a guideline. The current federal prohibition on the interstate movement of citrus plants, even though the plants are produced in disease-free nurseries, is particularly burdensome to Florida producers who lost important markets in the northeast.

RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky on April 18, 2007, that we request that USDA-APHIS continue to adequately fund Citrus Health Response Plans and Programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USDA-APHIS expedite adoption of scientifically and biologically justified federal regulations to allow for the movement of citrus fruit, citrus plants and other citrus products to markets for which their movement poses no risk.

Motion to Adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, SPB Resolutions Committee
Seconded by: Shashank Nilakhe

Distribution:

Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS
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SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD

April 15-18, 2007

Lexington, Kentucky

RESOLUTION No. 5

TROPICAL SODA APPLE

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 to 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 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.

Since 2003, over 65,000 adults of the leaf feeding beetle, *Gratiana boliviana*, have been released in southern region states including Florida, Alabama and Georgia. In addition to expanding release of this leaf-feeding beetle, initial releases of *Gratiana graminea* (for shady environments), *Metritona elatior* (for colder areas) and the flower weevil *Anthomonus tenebrosus* (to reduce fruiting) are planned for the coming year.

Recently identified priorities from the task force include the expansion of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for educational outreach to sod, seed and hay producers in order to reduce the movement of TSA via these agricultural products. The task force supports the application and implementation of a large scale Experimental Use Permit (EUP) by Dr. R. Charudattan for final testing of the bio-herbicide MGMTV, a very effective viral disease of TSA. Research funding has also been identified by the task force as a continuing need for improved herbicides and field testing, BMP development and biological control.

Further, the USDA-APHIS-PPQ has been an integral part of the RTSATF and the 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 Lexington, Kentucky on April 18, 2007, that we request that the USDA-APHIS continue to support the TSA methods-development work necessary to continue the biological and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies underway that will benefit multiple southern tier states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board, 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: Gene Cross, Chair, SPB Resolutions Committee

Seconded by: Tomm Johnson

Distribution:

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Cindy J. Smith, Associate Administrator, USDA-APHIS
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
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SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD

April 15-18, 2007

Lexington, Kentucky

RESOLUTION No. 4

SIREX WOOD WASP RESPONSE AND ACTION

Alabama

Arkansas

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

Mississippi

North Carolina

Oklahoma

Puerto Rico

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Virginia

The Sirex Wood Wasp, *Sirex noctilio*, has been documented by industry and regulatory officials as a devastating pine forest pest in the United States with great potential for impact in pine stands in southern states. Initial and cooperative surveys for the past two years have detected this insect in 27 counties in New York and two counties in Pennsylvania.

At present, USDA-APHIS-PPQ has outlined its intention to proceed with implementation of a federal quarantine and program plans; however, there has been no implementation or execution of those plans. This lack of action has resulted in the lack of clear direction for and protection of individual southern states.

RESOLVED by the membership of the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky on April 18, 2007, that we request that USDA-APHIS-PPQ immediately implement a federal quarantine and move forward with effective enforcement activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board, we encourage USDA-APHIS-PPQ to seek funding to assist in the implementation of surveys in elevated risk areas throughout the U.S., quarantine, enforcement, and biological control of this pest.

Motion to Adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, SPB Resolutions Committee
Seconded by: Tomm Johnson

DISTRIBUTION:

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Phil Garcia, Western Regional Director, USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Dr. Rob Mangold, Director, USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Protection
E. Austin Short III, President, NASF
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SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD

April 15-18, 2007

Lexington, Kentucky

RESOLUTION No. 3

GYPSY MOTH SLOW THE SPREAD FUNDING

Alabama

Arkansas

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

Mississippi

North Carolina

Oklahoma

Puerto Rico

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Virginia

The gypsy moth remains a highly destructive, exotic forest pest that was accidentally introduced into the United States in 1869. While this pest has been detected in the United States for over 100 years, more than 70% of our susceptible forests, primarily in the southern and midwestern sectors of the country, have not yet been affected by this pest and remain at risk.

The Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread (GM STS) Foundation, Inc. was established as a model cooperative program to manage this species. Since the establishment of the GM STS Foundation, the program has been successful in significantly reducing the spread and impact of the gypsy moth. While GM STS Foundation member states have directly benefited from the implementation of this program, other neighboring southern states including Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina also see direct or indirect benefits.

Previous budget language recommended substantial reductions to the USDA Forest Health Protection programs and specifically directed the Forest Service to shift gypsy moth resources to other high priority pests. Funding levels for the gypsy moth program were to be reduced, and it is anticipated these lower levels would directly and adversely impact the implementation of this highly successful program.

RESOLVED by the membership of the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky on April 18, 2007, that we request that the USDA Forest Service reinstate full funding of at least \$10 million yearly for the implementation of the GM STS Program.

Motion to Adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, SPB Resolutions Committee
Seconded by: Joe Collins

DISTRIBUTION:

Mark E. Rey, Under Secretary, USDA, Natural Resources and Environment
Dr. Robert Mangold, Director USDA, FS Forest Health Protection
E. Austin Short III, President, NASF
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SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD
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Lexington, Kentucky

RESOLUTION No. 2

SUDDEN OAK DEATH

Alabama

Arkansas

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

Mississippi

North Carolina

Oklahoma

Puerto Rico

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Virginia

Phytophthora ramorum is the causal agent of the disease commonly referred to as Sudden Oak Death, Ramorum Blight and Ramorum Die-back of certain trees, shrubs and plants. *P. ramorum* causes fatal bark cankers in California tan-oak, California live oak, and several other native California oaks. *P. ramorum* also causes leaf blights on species of camellia, rhododendron, and California bay, spreading rapidly in an area from plant to plant. This disease remains a problem for all states and continues to be a major concern for Southern Plant Board member states.

While the USDA Emergency Order regulating the movement of nursery stock from west coast states has been useful and functional in reducing the artificial spread of *P. ramorum*, the disease has not been completely eliminated from the nursery trade. The current Emergency Order is scheduled to end in January 2008.

RESOLVED by the membership of the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky on April 18, 2007, that we request USDA-APHIS-PPQ to focus its efforts on closing known existing pathways and identifying and addressing other potential pathways that continue to contribute to the spread of this disease. It is essential that program activities continue to protect uninfected areas with emphasis on regulatory activities for high- and medium-risk plant materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board, that we support the development and adoption of a new emergency order or interim rule that incorporates provisions for high- and medium-risk plants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board, that we support the research and development of improved and economically viable field diagnostic tools for the early determination of *P. ramorum*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board, that we encourage USDA to conduct an in-depth program critique to determine program successes and problem areas. A component of this program critique must be a pathway risk assessment with an emphasis on nursery stock. Finally, the Southern Plant Board strongly encourages USDA to fully fund this program such that program objectives might be met.

Motion to Adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, SPB Resolutions Committee
Seconded by: Christel Harden

DISTRIBUTION:

Bruce Knight, Under Secretary, USDA-APHIS-AMS
Dr. Ron DeHaven, Administrator, USDA-APHIS
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SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD
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RESOLUTION No. 1

Alabama

Arkansas

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

Louisiana

Mississippi

North Carolina

Oklahoma

Puerto Rico

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Virginia

APPRECIATION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

The Southern Plant Board Meeting held on April 15-18, 2007, in Lexington, Kentucky was wonderfully arranged, hosted and organized by the University of Kentucky, Department of Entomology. The Department of Entomology staff was exceedingly accommodating, professional, hospitable and warm; the meeting was remarkably successful and enjoyable for all; and we had great tours, food, and fun, in a beautiful setting.

RESOLVED by the membership of the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Lexington, Kentucky on April 18, 2007, that we sincerely thank Dr. John Obrycki, Joe Collins, Janet Lensing, and Carl Harper for their outstanding work in the preparation and implementation of this meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Southern Plant Board, we sincerely thank the meeting's sponsors for their generous support of the 2007 meeting.

Motion to Adopt: Gene Cross, Chair, SPB Resolutions Committee
Seconded by: Mike Evans

DISTRIBUTION:

Dr. Scott Smith
Southern Plant Board Sponsors
 BASF Corporation
 Southern Nurseryman's Association
 Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky
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