

**SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD**

**April 4-7, 2004**

**Williamsburg, Virginia**

**RESOLUTION # 3**

***Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 Control Program**

*Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 is a pest of quarantine significance in the United States and other countries. The potato industry is concerned that this pathogen could cause production-related losses if it becomes established in the U.S., and could adversely affect trade with countries that are free of the pathogen. *Ralstonia* has a relatively large host range, including a number of horticultural crops such as geranium, which are imported into the U.S. from Central America, Kenya, and other areas where the pathogen is known to occur. For two years in a row, infected geranium cuttings have been imported into the United States causing significant economic losses to greenhouse growers around the country and increasing the risk of establishment of this disease. The continued importation of infected geraniums highlights the need to review current safeguarding and phytosanitary measures for certification of geranium cuttings being imported into the United States.

Since *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 cannot be reliably detected by visual means on imported plant material, testing of such material for this pathogen is necessary. Because testing plant material after it has entered the U.S. is inefficient and costly, testing for the pathogen should be conducted in the country of origin prior to shipment. Additionally, operations in countries from which infected material has been shipped must be thoroughly sanitized, and effectively monitored to prevent movement of infected stock in the future.

**Resolved:** That the Southern Plant Board, at its annual meeting held in Williamsburg, Virginia on April 7, 2004, requests that USDA-APHIS-PPQ evaluate and strengthen the 'Minimum Sanitation Protocols for Offshore Geranium Cutting Production' to prevent the continued introduction of *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2 into the U.S. and implement a domestic monitoring program at first receivers as a further safeguarding measure.

Motion to Adopt: Bill Dickerson

Seconded by: Shashank Nilakhe

**Distribution:**

Ann Veneman, Secretary, USDA

Bill Hawks, Under Secretary, USDA

Robert Bonner, Commissioner, DHS-BCBP

Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ

Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA

Gus Douglass, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA

Terry Bourgoin, National Potato Council Seed Committee

Craig Regelbrugge, Senior Director of Government Relations, ANLA

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