

SOUTHERN PLANT BOARD

April 4-7, 2004

Williamsburg, Virginia

RESOLUTION # 4

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 within the United States. First identified as a noxious weed threat in the early 1990's, TSA has continued to spread in Florida and appear in satellite infestations in other Southeastern states. In 2003, the Regional Tropical Soda Apple Task Force (RTSATF) was formed to begin developing a multi-state approach to the eradication and/or management of TSA.

Through the task force, research, regulatory, survey, control and public information / education initiatives have been expanded. Progress continues to be made in the development of better TSA control techniques including chemical, cultural and biological control methods. However, additional work is needed to complete important research, regulatory and public education projects. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been developed that is currently being circulated for signature by all Southeastern states. This MOU is designed to bring consistency to the key TSA activities that are important to mitigating the impact of this invasive weed. To date, four states have signed the agreement with at least four additional states also expected to sign.

The RTSATF, in January of 2004, developed in cooperation with the USDA APHIS PPQ a TSA funding proposal for \$2,520,000 to support control, regulatory, survey, and public information activities in affected states.

RESOLVED: that the Southern Plant Board (SPB), at its April 7, 2004 meeting held in Williamsburg, Virginia, strongly supports the TSA funding initiative of \$2,520,000 developed by the USDA APHIS PPQ for FY2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the SPB urges the USDA APHIS PPQ to place a high priority on this funding request.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the USDA APHIS PPQ funding be distributed in accordance with the allocation by States participating in and developed by the RTSATF.

Motion to Adopt: Richard Gaskalla

Seconded by: Bill Dickerson

DISTRIBUTION:

Ann M. Veneman, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Bill Hawks, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Ron Dehaven, Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, VS

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

Jerry Fowler, Regional Director, Eastern Region, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

J.R. Reynolds, Regional Director, Western Region, USDA, APHIS, PPQ

Richard Kirchhoff, Executive Vice President and CEO, NASDA

President, SASDA

Commissioners of Agriculture for the Southern Plant Board States

Bill Dickerson, National Plant Board President

Regional Plant Board Presidents

Richard Gaskalla, Chairman Regional Tropical Soda Apple Task Force

President, Southern Animal Health Association