

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2007-48
October 9, 2007

SUBJECT: Diagnostics for Asian Soybean Rust, *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

This is to serve as notification to State Departments of Agriculture, university cooperators, industry partners, and others that States are no longer required to send suspect *P. pachyrhizi*-infected host tissue to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program for diagnostic confirmation of first State records or new host records. PPQ has removed *P. pachyrhizi* from the "select agent list" and only requires parties who wish to import or move this organism interstate to apply for a permit. There are no requirements for importation of soybeans or any other host material, specific for *P. pachyrhizi*. PPQ encourages States to utilize their own diagnostic capabilities and the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN). Because of the extensive training PPQ has provided to diagnosticians, as well as the training provided by the NPDN, APHIS is confident that the morphological and molecular identification procedures are robust. Data, both positive and negative, should be entered into the National Agricultural Pest Information System so that a historical record is maintained particularly for new State and county records.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine