

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2010-51
October 29, 2010

SUBJECT: Thirteen New State Detections of *Duponchelia fovealis*

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is providing information on several new state detections of the moth *Duponchelia fovealis* (no common name) in the United States.

On May 18, 2010, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) notified APHIS about an interception of *Duponchelia fovealis* larvae in a nursery shipment from San Diego County, California. Since this notification, APHIS has worked closely with the California Department of Food & Agriculture and San Diego County in surveying the area of concern. On July 16, 2010, APHIS confirmed the detection of *Duponchelia fovealis* at a greenhouse in Vista, California. Trace-forward information provided by the affected nursery resulted in the expansion of detection surveys in 26 counties within California. Although survey data confirm the presence of *Duponchelia fovealis* in 16 counties in California, APHIS has not received reports of damage caused by this pest.

During the months of September and October, APHIS and State Departments of Agriculture have confirmed the presence of *Duponchelia fovealis* in portions of twelve additional states including; Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington.

While *Duponchelia fovealis* originated in southern Europe and North Africa and can be found in the environment, it is considered to be a greenhouse pest. The moth's dispersion is natural, and it is not very cold tolerant. *Duponchelia fovealis* has a wide range of host plants, including peppers, pomegranates, aquatic plants, bedding plants and nursery stock.

APHIS, in partnership with the affected states, plans to examine the regulatory status, options, and next steps, including federally recognized state managed phytosanitary options such as official control for *Duponchelia fovealis*.

For additional information on the *Duponchelia fovealis* program, you may contact Eileen Smith, APHIS National Emergency Response Coordinator at (301) 734-5235.

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