

FOR INFORMATION
DA-2005-13
May 6, 2005

SUBJECT: Plants for Planting Workshop

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

A Plants for Planting Workshop to evaluate criteria to be used in conjunction with the proposed new plant import category "Plant Taxa Excluded Pending Pest Risk Analysis" will be held on May 25, 2005, at the USDA Center at Riverdale; Conference Center on the first floor; 4700 River Road; Riverdale, MD 20737. This public meeting will start at 8:30 am and close at 5:00 pm with check-in from 7:30 to 8:30 am.

PPQ is holding this public meeting as part of its effort to reduce pest risks associated with the importation of plants for planting. Regulations covering the importation of plants for planting (nursery stock) are contained primarily in 7 CFR 319.37. The primary purpose of the meeting is to discuss and evaluate draft criteria for identifying plants that should be considered pest plants and host plants that may serve as pathways of potential quarantine pests, pathogens, and weeds. These criteria, or others developed based on input received during the meeting, will be the basis for a new category of imported plants for planting that we may include in our proposed rule. The new category is tentatively entitled "Plant Taxa Excluded Pending Risk Analysis and Approval."

This public meeting will not address other aspects of the recently published Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) for Nursery Stock, such as data collection, clean stock programs, best management practices, re-evaluating prohibited taxa, or combining the regulations dealing with plants for planting. Also, this meeting will not address the issue of establishing this proposed new plant import category for plant taxa not imported in significant amounts.

For additional information please read the "Draft Criteria" and the ANPR for Nursery Stock Regulation on the following website:
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/Q37/workshop/index.html>. Additional public meetings will be held as necessary to obtain additional input on these aspects of the ANPR.

If you are interested in attending, please complete and submit the registration form. Our meeting room capacity is limited so please register early. The registration form must be received by May 20, 2005. You can register online by going to the following website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/Q37/workshop/index.html> or by printing and faxing it using the following website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/Q37/workshop/Q37-Registration.pdf>.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Toran, Registration Coordinator, by e-mail (Linda.Toran@usda.gov) or telephone (301) 734-5307, or Arnold T. Tschanz, Workshop Coordinator, by e-mail (Arnold.T.Tschanz@usda.gov) or telephone (301) 734-5306. Additional information about the workshop is available at the following website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/Q37/workshop/index.html>.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine