

FOR INFORMATION AND  
ACTION  
DA-2008-76  
December 19, 2008

SUBJECT: Request for Comments on Regulatory Options for Pea Leaf Miner

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is soliciting your comments to help us determine options for the continued regulation of *Liriomyza huidobrensis*, commonly known as pea leaf miner.

Pea leaf miner is an exotic, highly polyphagous leaf miner capable of inflicting severe damage to crops such as field- and glasshouse-grown vegetables and flowers. Pea leaf miner is a mining fly of the insect family *Agromyzidae*. Pea leaf miner can be found in Asia, Africa, Central and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Oceania. This fly was also considered to be present in the States of California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. However, there is now evidence that the fly in the United States previously believed to be pea leaf miner is not *Liriomyza huidobrensis*. Research has identified the fly present in the United States as *Liriomyza langei*. The fly was differentiated by molecular diagnosis from pea leaf miner but is morphologically almost identical. This research is summarized in the attached Center for Plant Health Science and Technology (CPHST) report entitled, "Is *Liriomyza langei* a real species or a biotype of *L. huidobrensis*?"

For regulatory purposes, APHIS believes that pea leaf miner and *L. langei* can be considered different species and distinct taxa. However, we recognize that we should not regulate one fly and not the other without scientific evidence indicating biological differences affecting pest character between species so taxonomically similar. In the attachment entitled, "Regulatory Options for Pea Leaf Miner and *Liriomyza langei*", we have presented three regulatory options that we are considering to address pea leaf miner and *L. langei*. The options are: (1) Regulate imported commodities for pea leaf miner into all 50 States; (2) Regulate imported commodities for pea leaf miner and interstate movement of commodities for *L. langei* into the State of Florida (current regulatory process); or (3) Provide no regulation for pea leaf miner or *L. langei*.

Since this is the first case for APHIS where a population of an organism with U.S. distribution was believed to be the same as an exotic pest but was subsequently differentiated from an exotic pest as a distinct species by molecular diagnosis without support of morphological characters, we wish to obtain comments from State Departments of Agriculture as to how APHIS should regulate for pea leaf miner. We also welcome the submission of any published scientific article(s) for our review and consideration regarding the relationship of pea leaf miner and *L. langei*. You may submit your comments and any supporting information by e-mail to

SPRO.PLM.Comments@aphis.usda.gov or by fax to (301) 734-3396. We ask that you provide your comments by January 16, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact Janel Barsi, Special Assistant, Office of the Executive Director, Plant Protection and Quarantine, at (301)-734-0947.

**/s/ Michael A. Lidsky for**

Rebecca A. Bech  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachments:

Regulatory options for pea leaf miner and *Liriomyza langei*

Is *Liriomyza langei* a real species or a biotype of *L. huidobrensis*?, August 2008