



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, October 7, 2004

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/pdmp/>

Noxious Weed

A third infestation of *Inula Britannica* has been found associated with hostas in Minnesota. The noxious weed was found by Brian Kopper at a commercial office building located in Bloomington in Hennepin County, and confirmed on September 20, 2004, by Rodney Young. PPQ is working cooperatively with MDA to obtain information on the source. This is the first finding of *Inula Britannica* in a commercial planting.

Source: Kevin Connors

The newly reported giant salvinia infestation in Mississippi did not get much rain from Hurricane Ivan. Pest Survey Specialist John Corban reports that the water level is actually lower than during his last visit. Photos of the infestation and herbicide treatment have been shared with ForestryImages.org at the University of Georgia. SPHD Jeff Head has requested the biological control salvinia weevils for an Integrated Pest Management approach.

Source: Art Miller

Giant Salvinia in Virginia and Louisiana. A Giant Salvinia find in Shenandoah County, Virginia is under investigation. The Giant Salvinia was in back of a very old historical home near or in Strasburg, Virginia which is located in Shenandoah County. The pond where the giant salvinia was found is small a spring fed pond where the water temperature remains pretty much the same year round. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation officer who reported it speculated that because the water temperature did not change drastically throughout the year may have allowed the giant salvinia to over winter in the pond. It is thought that the giant salvinia may have been brought in unintentionally when the owner introduced some parrot feather (a legal aquatic plant). The Parrot feather may have been purchased in Maryland but this is not 100% confirmed. They have not attempted any control

to date but are investigating, and exploring options with APHIS.

Additionally a homeowner in Louisiana called Al Tasker to ask questions about a Giant Salvinia infestation in his lake. He indicated he was in touch with a professor at LSU about biocontrol, but he was also interested in other options. It was recommended he contact the SPHD, Bill Spitzer and the state Department of Agriculture.

Grasshopper and Mormon cricket

In 2004 the APHIS Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Suppression Program protected 778,553 acres of rangeland in 12 Western States (CA, CO, ID, MT, ND, NE, NV, OR, SD, WA, WY, UT). The top three states for treatments were UT, NV and MT. Most of the treatments were done using the Reduced Agent/Area Treatments strategy which reduces the grasshopper or Mormon cricket populations to levels that are no longer economically damaging while reducing the pesticide application rate by up to 50% in the treatment area.

Source: Charlie Brown

Asian Gypsy Moth

On 27 September APHIS Methods Laboratory at Otis confirmed by DNA analysis a male Asian Gypsy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*) submitted by the Idaho Department of Lands. The capture was made near the town of Hauser about 1-mile from the Washington border and about 30 miles from Spokane. The moth was captured during the 9 June - 7 Sept timeframe. A telephone conference was convened on 29 September involving SPRO and SPHD personnel from Idaho and Washington states, the CPHST GM science expert, and PPQ program managers from western region and Riverdale headquarters. For the latitude of northern Idaho the gypsy moth species would be currently in the egg phase of its life cycle; hatch occurs in spring. An egg mass survey will be launched within 1-2 weeks. A site visit is scheduled in October for state and APHIS personnel to assess the situation and plan an appropriate response for delimiting as well as consideration of possible treatment for spring 2005. No AGM is known to be extant in the



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U.S.A., and at this point the source of the captured moth is unknown. A pathway analysis will determine as much as possible about the possible source of the captured AGM. The Asian biotype of the gypsy moth has a greater host range than the North American Gypsy Moth (NAGM), and can spread more rapidly due to the capacity of the female to fly long distances compared to the flightless female of the NAGM.

Source: Weyman Fussell

Pest Detection

Coanne O'Hern, National Survey Coordinator for PPQ, participated in the National IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Coordination Meeting held by CSREES on September 15 and 16. Representatives from the Land Grant Universities, Regional IPM Centers, and several other Federal agencies were present. Coanne gave a brief overview of the Pest Detection and Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program and opportunities for APHIS to collaborate with the IPM community. A question and answer session followed the presentation where all present learned more about what each other does and how to better collaborate.

Source: Coanne O'Hern

Sudden Oak Death

PPQ continues to refine and discuss the details of its draft *Phytophthora ramorum* strategic plan and amended Federal Order with cooperators. When finalized, the plan and order will address concerns about the PPQ *P. ramorum* emergency response that have been expressed by several states and industry. Staff traveled to Kentucky this week to meet with agriculture officials and address their concerns. Last Friday, staff discussed the plan and order with Washington state officials during a teleconference.

An audit of the count of positive locations has revealed a need to adjust counts in three states. Georgia had 16 positive sites, not 18 and South Carolina had 4 positives sites, not 3. Oregon added one positive site this week. As of October 7, 2004 the total number of confirmed positive sites from the trace forward, national, and other survey is 160 in 21 States. The total includes three residential finds; two in Georgia and one in South

Carolina and one environs find in New York. The breakdown per State is: AL (3), AR (1), AZ (1), CA (53), CO (1), FL (6), GA (16), LA (5), MD (2), NC (9), NJ (1), NM (1), NY (1), OK (1), OR (14), PA (1), SC (4), TN (2), TX (11), VA (2) and WA (25).

APHIS - PPQ *P. ramorum* National Survey activities are complete in 14 Western Region States (AK, AR, AZ, CA, IA, ID, LA, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD, MT, and WY) and 18 Eastern Region (AL, CT, DE, FL, IL, IN, KY, ME, MI, MN, MS, NC, NJ, OH, PA, PR, TN, WI). The southern states that suspended their national survey activities until weather conditions were more conducive to *P. ramorum* symptom expression are restarting their surveys. As of September 23, 2004, participating States through out the nation have surveyed 2,305 sites and have collected 41,731 samples; 15 national survey sites are confirmed positive.