

FOR INFORMATION AND  
ACTION DA-2009-45  
September 8, 2009

SUBJECT: Regulatory Action for Pea Leaf Miner

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The purpose of this SPRO is to provide notification that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will take action on commodities imported into the United States if pea leaf miner is detected, regardless of the state of destination. The effective date will be November 1, 2009.

On December 19, 2008, APHIS solicited your input by SPRO to help us determine an option for the continued regulation of *Liriomyza huidobrensis*, commonly known as pea leaf miner. Leaf mining flies of the insect family, *Agromyzidae*, which includes pea leaf miner, arrive in commerce almost exclusively as larvae or pupae. APHIS has always taken action at ports of entry when *Agromyzidae* were found on commodities because these immature insects cannot be identified to the species level using morphological characters alone. However, only in a few cases where surveys on specific crops in specific countries determined that pea leaf miner was virtually the only species of *Agromyzidae* on those crops (i.e., snow peas and green onions from Guatemala and chrysanthemum from the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Colombia) could we appropriately assume that the intercepted, immature flies were pea leaf miner. Pea leaf miner was also thought to be present in certain states within the United States, so APHIS regulated pea leaf miner by taking action only on imported shipments destined to Florida because that state employed an effective exclusion program to prevent introduction of the pest through interstate trade. However, as indicated in our SPRO of December 19, research indicates that the pest previously believed to be pea leaf miner in the United States is actually *L. langei*.

Based on the input received and the research cited in the SPRO, APHIS will take action on imported commodities regardless of the state of destination into the United States if pea leaf miner is detected. We will also continue taking action on imported commodities if immature larvae or pupae of the family *Agromyzidae* are detected. APHIS action will consist of treatment, destruction, or reexportation of infested shipments.

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Cavey, National Identification Services, Registration, Identification, Permits, and Plant Safeguarding, Plant Protection and Quarantine, at (301)-734-8547.

**/s/ John H. Payne for**

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