

United States Regulations for *C. cactorum* and its Hosts

Joel Floyd, Team Leader, Emergency Planning
USDA, APHIS, PPQ
4700 River Road, Unit 137, Riverdale, MD 20782

The importation or interstate movement of live *C. cactorum* life stages is prohibited without APHIS issued permits. USDA, APHIS, Plant Protection and Quarantine's (PPQ's) quarantine on hosts of *C. cactorum* is currently inconsistent in its regulation. There are restrictions on moving all cactus from certain islands and territories of the United States, but currently no other federal domestic regulations restricting the movement of potentially infected *Opuntia* nursery stock or products for consumption within the continental US. All imported plants and cuttings for planting requires inspection and a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration that the shipment has been inspected and found free of *C. cactorum*. The changes to PPQ's quarantines under consideration will prohibit the known hosts live plants or plant parts excluding seeds, movement to the mainland, those host genera being *Opuntia* spp., *Nopalea* spp., *Cylindropuntia* spp., and *Consolea* spp. Also under consideration is a continental U.S. regulation prohibiting the movement of live plants or plant parts excluding seeds, of these hosts. from states with *C. cactorum* (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) to uninfested parts of the United States. Because the internal feeding habit of *C. cactorum* larvae presents difficulty in the inspection of *Opuntia* and other host plants and plant parts, PPQ is considering prohibiting the importation of live plants or plant parts, excluding seeds, of these hosts from all countries with *C. cactorum*. This would amend the quarantine for plants for planting and for fresh fruits and vegetables to prohibit importation in the United States such articles from all countries with *C. cactorum*, and except for counties which practice official control of *C. cactorum* according to international standards set forth by the International Plant Protection Convention.