



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, February 2, 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/ep/reports/>

Asian longhorned beetle - The Illinois Department of Agriculture issued a press release on January 26, 2004 to announce the extension of the ALB quarantine zone in Chicago by adding 6.71 square miles around the area where a lone ALB adult was spotted on a light post outside of Oz Park on October 8, 2003. Since October, the ALB program staff conducted intensive surveys around the adult beetle find. During the week of November 17, 2003, 3 ALB infested trees were found within one block of the adult beetle find. In addition, the state announced the scheduled removal of the two ALB quarantine zones in Addison and Summit, Illinois. A public information meeting will be held in mid February in each of the affected quarantine zones as part of the de-regulation process.

In January 2004, John Dodd, Legislative and Public Awareness Specialist for the ALB Program, published an Updated Story on the Asian Longhorned Beetle Eradication Program. This article will be used throughout the impacted program area to inform the public and industry on the most recent events in the program and to ask for their continued support in the eradication efforts. The article will also be distributed outside of the immediate program area to keep awareness alive about this devastating exotic insect.

The New York Program is targeting presentations at Community Board Meetings in neighborhoods where the 2004 chemical treatments are planned to communicate the upcoming treatment program in order to maximize support from the impacted residents.

Contact: Mike Stefan (301) 734-4387

Michael.B.Stefan@aphis.usda.gov

Ralstonia solanacearum race 3 biovar 2: Recent Detection in the U.S. - PPQ and State regulatory officials are continuing to hold, destroy and dispose of the three geranium varieties produced at a Guatemalan

production facility that are potentially infected with *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2.

Goldsmith believes they can establish that some callused cuttings were not produced in the suspect Guatemalan greenhouses, and sent data they believed demonstrated this to us on January 27. APHIS has reviewed the data, and determined plants of the three varieties slated for destruction that meet the following criteria can be released, as of January 28: (1) shipping week can be readily identified in the plants in the greenhouse, (2) plant variety can easily be associated with the shipping week to be released, and (3) the combination of #1 and #2 are on the list of plants that potentially can be released. APHIS sent an urgent email to our regions on January 28 to release subject plants, providing they meet these criteria. APHIS has asked Goldsmith to not contact their customers about this but to allow APHIS and the States visit these facilities, find these plants, and see if this is possible to reduce the number of plants slated for destruction.

Nationally, 41 states have a total of 448 suspect facilities, 223 facilities are currently being held, 223 control actions (destruction, disposal and disinfection) are complete, 212 facilities have been released, and more than 1.3 million cuttings or plants have been destroyed as of February 2.

The 2004 Ralstonia action plan is available at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/ralstonia/ralstoniaactionplan4web.pdf>

Contact: Matthew Royer 301-734-3769

Matthew.H.Royer@aphis.usda.gov

Emerald ash borer - The Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and USDA plan to destroy about 200 ash trees to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer. Thirteen trees infested with the EAB were planted at the new Colvin Run Elementary school in Vienna, Virginia last July. Those trees have been inspected and destroyed. An additional 190 ash trees, including 30 privately owned trees, within a half-mile radius of the school will also be destroyed prior to Spring to prevent emergence of



Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, February 2, 2004

adults and ensure eradication of the pest. The action is necessary as a result of a nursery owner in southern Michigan violating the quarantine and shipping more than 100 trees to an unwitting nursery in Prince George's County, Maryland.

On January 26, 2004, the Canadian Government began cutting down thousands of trees in Chatham-Kent area of Ontario County to prevent spread of emerald ash-borer beetle, and create a "firebreak" or host free zone. Canada and the United States are cooperatively addressing the EAB outbreak in southeast Michigan and adjacent southwest Ontario.

Contact: Contact: Jonathan Jones (301) 734-5038
Jonathan.M.Jones@USDA.GOV