

USDA-APHIS-PPQ
Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample Policy: *Xanthomonas* spp.*
responsible for Citrus Canker

Overview

A Potentially Actionable Suspect Sample (PASS) is a **regulatory sample**, from the environment or an APHIS approved exclusionary facility under compliance that presumptively contains a plant pest or pathogen of federal regulatory concern. The **sample** may contain fungi, bacteria, viruses, nematodes, weeds, insects, mites, mollusks, etc., and requires confirmation by a lab with **federal confirmatory authority**. A PASS is a regulatory sample where preliminary diagnostics, whether through symptomology, morphology or by molecular test results, indicate a USDA regulatory pathogen is present. A PASS requires confirmation by the USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST-Beltsville laboratory.

Samples Collected from a Non-Regulated Area

Any **regulatory sample** collected from a non-regulated area that has been screened by state or USDA identifiers for the presence of *Xanthomonas* spp., the causative agent for Citrus canker (CC), is considered a PASS and must be forwarded to the USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST-Beltsville laboratory (Table 1) for **final determination**. Sample should consist of symptomatic plant material (leaves, twigs, or/and fruit) and an inactivated bacterial steaming suspension (see next page).

Table 1 APHIS Confirmatory Molecular* Laboratory

CPHST Beltsville Lab*
Sample Diagnostics (Dr. Mark Nakhla) USDA-APHIS-PPQ-CPHST BARC-East, Bldg. 580 Powder Mill Road Beltsville, MD 20705-2350 Phone: (301) 313-9200 APHIS-PPQCPHSTBeltsvilleSampleDiagnostics@aphis.usda.gov

*Notify APHIS laboratories prior to shipping samples.

Samples Collected from a Regulated Area

For a regulatory sample collected in a **regulated area**, the sample should be evaluated by the State designated laboratory or forwarded to either the PPQ Western Hub Domestic Identification Plant Pathology Lab or PPQ Eastern Hub Domestic Identification Plant Pathology Lab (Table 2). A sample diagnosed as suspect positive may be forwarded to the USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST-Beltsville laboratory if:

- The sample is an **unusual detection** and/or
- The sample will result in the expansion of a previously established regulated area

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Table 2 APHIS Laboratories*

PPQ Western Hub Domestic Identification Plant Pathology Lab	PPQ Eastern Hub Domestic Identification Plant Pathology Lab
Dr. Craig Webb USDA APHIS PPQ Kansas State University 4024 Throckmorton Plant Sciences Center Manhattan, KS 66506 Craig.a.webb@aphis.usda.gov Phone: (785) 532-1349	Grace O'Keefe USDA APHIS PPQ Pennsylvania State University 105 Buckhout Lab University Park, PA 16802 Grace.okeefe@aphis.usda.gov Phone: (814) 865-9896

*Notify APHIS laboratories and the APHIS Domestic Diagnostics Coordinator prior to shipping samples. Include a "PPQ Form 391" "Specimen for Determination" with each sample. Email a copy of the PPQ Form 391 and a notification of the suspect positive sample going forward for confirmation to the Domestic Diagnostics Coordinator: joel.p.floyd@aphis.usda.gov.

Definitions

Federal Confirmatory Authority: A laboratory that has been given the authority by USDA APHIS PPQ for regulatory confirmatory testing.

Final Determination: The final diagnostic result for a regulatory sample confirming whether the pathogen is present or not. If the sample is confirmed positive, PPQ may respond with regulatory action(s).

Regulated Area: Any APHIS recognized area where CC has been federally confirmed.

Regulatory Sample: This is a sample of regulatory concern to APHIS for CC collected by regulatory officials.

Sample: A sample refers to a single bag of leaves or a twig with attached leaves. Each sample is to contain a minimum of 5 symptomatic (unhealthy) leaves; 5-12 leaves if possible. It is strongly encouraged that each sample is from one plant. Regulatory action may commence on one sample confirmed positive. In addition to the plant sample an inactivated (boiled) bacterial streaming suspension prepared according to the WI-B-T-2-2 should be submitted.

Unusual Detection: A detection involving unique or unexpected circumstances, an atypical biology of the pest or pathogen, or a previously unknown host.

**Xanthomonas* spp. refers to 1) *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *citri* (Xac A, A* and A^W) with synonyms *X. citri* pv. *citri*, or *X. citri* subsp. *citri* or *X. campestris* pv. *citri* or *X. smithii* subsp. *citri* and 2) *X. axonopodis* pv. *aurantifolii* (Xac B & C) with a synonym *X. fuscans* subsp. *aurantifolii*.