

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

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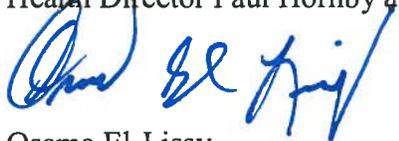
Subject: APHIS Declares Eradication of Cotton Seed Bug (*Oxycarenus Hyalinipennis*)
From Florida

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is declaring eradication of the cotton seed bug (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*) from Stock Island and Fort Zachary Taylor State Park in Florida. First detected in 2010, the cotton seed bug can damage seed production of cotton, okra, and hibiscus. Adult cotton seed bugs may also feed on fruits and seeds of other plants, causing significant damage.

APHIS partnered with Florida to implement extensive survey, regulatory, and control activities to eradicate the cotton seed bug and prevent its spread into cotton-producing states. After three years of negative detections in Stock Island and Fort Zachary Taylor State Park, these areas are no longer considered infested with the cotton seed bug.

For additional information on cotton seed bug eradication efforts, you may call State Plant Health Director Paul Hornby at 352-313-3040.



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Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine