

THE FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED STATE MANAGED PHYTOSANITARY (FRSMP) PROGRAM
WORK PLAN FOR BAGRADA BUG SPONSORED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Summary

The FRSMP work plan for Bagrada bug is threefold: (1) is the exterior quarantine under current State and delegated Federal authority (2) inspection of host material entering petitioning state at interdiction stations, distribution centers or packing facilities; and (3) monitoring for the pest itself in selected host commodities in the petitioning state.

1. Safeguarding Measure: *Exterior Quarantine*

The following representations of our State regulatory authority demonstrates Florida's ability to restrict activities and articles that facilitate the movement of pests, as well as establish quarantine, to maintain pest freedom and contain pest distribution: **570.32, 581.031, 581.091, 581.101, and in particular 5B-3.0038**, where *Bagrada hilaris*, Bagrada bug, has been added to our ongoing rulemaking procedure.

2. Safeguarding Measure: *Inspection*

Current survey and detection methodologies include inspection of potential host material as it enters the state via the 20 Agricultural Interdiction Stations located in the northern portion of Florida. The FDACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement's officers support and supplement all of the department's regulatory and law enforcement programs by conducting inspections of highway shipments of agricultural, horticultural, aquacultural and livestock commodities. Agricultural inspection activities performed by the road guards are of two types: regulatory and law enforcement. Regulatory activities include inspection of vehicles and examination of shipping documents and inspection certificates (which were intended to ensure that products carried complied with industry and government standards and were free of pests) and the collection of statistical data for use by industries and by government entities. Law enforcement activities consisted in the pursuit and apprehension of drivers who were required, but failed to stop for inspection. In addition, inspections take place at high-risk locations such as distribution centers. FDACS/DPI has over 74 inspectors conducting import inspections at distribution centers multiple times through the year wherein agricultural products are inspected for Bagrada bug and other hitchhikers. The inspectors have been trained to detect the Bagrada bug and have access to pertinent literature. Refresher training is also conducted at regional workshops. FL and PPQ interceptions of Bagrada bugs have indicated that broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and lettuce are likely hosts/pathways. In 2013 the numbers of truck shipments into the state were as follows: broccoli 1399, cauliflower 717, and lettuce 2870 (Commerce Transit Imaging System Database). These numbers remain fairly consistent annually and 2015 should be similar. Cabbage data were not available as this crop is not tracked separately. Under the Bagrada program, FDACS/DPI will inspect at least 1-2% of each truck's cargo that is carrying suspected host material. In the course of normal inspection, if other hosts are determined they will be added to the inspection protocol.

3. Safeguarding Measure: *Surveillance*

The number of interceptions of this significant plant pest has increased the awareness (14 interceptions from California between 2011 and 2013, see Page 2 of *Bagrada* petition) and attention of those entities and individuals who work in the host plant fields. The key commercial host crop fields are regularly inspected by commercial scouts, growers' workers, as well as specific surveys by FDACS/DPI inspectors for the *Bagrada* bug under the aegis of CAPS or Farm Bill projects. The inspectors have been trained to detect *Bagrada* bugs and have access to pertinent literature. Inspectors receive refresher training at quarterly regional workshops. Updated training is provided as needed in the field and at regional workshops. Scouting information on anything unusual or suspect is communicated to one or more UF/IFAS extension specialists for consultation and which is further distributed to DPI as appropriate. Detection of a suspect *Bagrada* bug will be quickly shared amongst the UF/IFAS and DPI network. Large numbers of inspections occur via DPI and CAPS surveys in retail and wholesale nurseries and garden centers as well as commercial agricultural plantings.

All suspect material collected at the interdiction stations or collected from traps will be sent to Gainesville for identification.

4. Quality Assurance Activity

FDACS/DPI can manually review all violations from FDACS/Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement where a violation is issued due to discovery of any undeclared products as a result of verifying inappropriate paperwork or discovery by a CAPS inspection.

Bagrada bug detection

The *Bagrada* bugs multiply quickly and can survive on a variety of hosts, including common roadside weeds distributed throughout Florida. A finding would result in an immediate large-scale survey and detection efforts to determine the distribution, population level(s) and damages associated with the *Bagrada* bug. The surveys would be initiated by DPI using its inspectors and State CAPS pest survey specialists. As commonly done with several recent detections of important non-native pests, an Incident Command System would be engaged to conduct the immediate survey and control activities. Additional assistance with survey would be solicited from commercial scouts, growers and UF extension specialists. If feasible, an eradication strategy would be initiated after consultation with federal and state regulatory agencies, agricultural stakeholders and University of Florida scientists and administrators. A control program, not the preferred option, would entail use of an Integrated Pest Management Program including expensive chemicals for long durations and require careful attention to what chemical groups are used and how often with rotation of chemicals are necessary strategy to avoid the buildup of chemical resistance by the *Bagrada* bug and would likely be a multi-agency and industry initiative.