

Decision Summary: Granting Federal Recognition to Florida's Bagraada Bug Phytosanitary Program

The Bagraada bug is found primarily on plants within the family Brassicaceae. It has been detected in Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah. It also occurs in Africa, parts of Europe and Asia, and Mexico. Florida is free from the Bagraada bug.

The combined economic value of vulnerable crops in Florida impacted by this pest exceeds \$1 billion. The Bagraada bug is non-actionable at U.S. ports of entry unless it is detected arriving in the State of Florida.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) considers the Bagraada bug to be a high risk pest and petitioned Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) to recognize their phytosanitary program. The petition was supported by the National Plant Board.

PPQ's Official Control Advisory Panel¹ (OCAP) evaluated Florida's petition against criteria established in the Federally Recognized State Managed Phytosanitary (FRSMP) Program Manual. The OCAP determined that Florida's program qualified for federal recognition because it demonstrated successfully that 1) they have a phytosanitary program for the Bagraada bug, 2) they have legal authority to act on the pest in interstate commerce, and 3) pest exclusion is technically feasible. In addition, FDACS demonstrated their ability to meet the one- to two-percent inspection rate of foreign commodities which is equivalent to inspections practices conducted at U.S. ports of entry.

¹ The OCAP includes representatives from across PPQ's Policy Management, Field Operations, and Science and Technology divisions, and a representative from the National Plant Board.