

Decision Summary: Granting Federal Recognition to Florida's Potato/Tomato Psyllid Phytosanitary Program

Potato/tomato psyllid is found primarily on plants within the family Solanaceae. This psyllid vectors the bacterium *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* which causes zebra chip disease, a serious disease of potatoes. Both the disease and the psyllid have been detected in 19 states west of the Mississippi river. It also occurs in Canada, Mexico, Central America, and New Zealand. Florida is free of potato/tomato psyllid and zebra chip disease. The combined economic value of Florida's crops potentially impacted by this psyllid exceeds \$900 million. The psyllid is non-actionable at U.S. ports of entry because it is established in the western United States.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) considers the potato/tomato psyllid 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 and a number of others, including the Florida Tomato Committee, North Florida Growers Exchange, and the University of Florida. In addition, comments from the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida indicated that establishment of another invasive pest could threaten their agricultural resources.

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 potato/tomato psyllid, 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.

