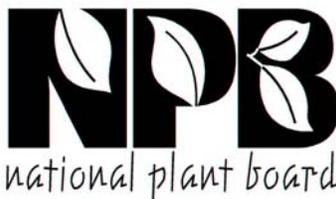


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December 17, 2012

Diane L. Schuble
National Coordinator for Official Control –
The Federally Recognized State Managed Phytosanitary Program
USDA APHIS PPQ
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

Re: DEEP List Evaluation

Dear Ms. Schuble:

The National Plant Board has reviewed the proposal put forth by your agency to change the status of the following plant pests currently regulated in foreign trade to non-actionable at ports of entry:

- *Acutaspis scutiformis*, an armored scale
- *Aleyrodes proletella*, cabbage whitefly
- *Cosmopolites sordidus*, banana weevil
- *Diaphania indica*, cucumber moth
- *Ferrisia malvastra*, Malvastrum mealybug
- *Heterodera cruciferae*, cabbage cyst nematode
- *Lilioceris lili*, lily leaf beetle
- *Phaeosphaeria maydis*, leaf spot of maize
- *Phenacoccus parvus*, Lantana mealybug
- *Trachymela sloanei*, eucalyptus tortoise beetle

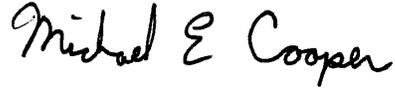
Based on responses received from our members the National Plant Board concurs with the majority of the deregulation recommendations.

However, Hawaii, California and Oregon (Western Plant Board states) disagreed with some of the deregulation recommendations. And a majority had concerns with the deregulation of *L. lili* because of the possible impact to Threatened and Endangered lily species.

Please review the attached Deregulation Evaluation of Established Pests document which has the specific deregulation issues of the pests of concern. It is suggested that additional discussion be held with the State Plant Regulatory Officials of California, Hawaii, and Oregon. And perhaps a response to the concerns raised regarding *L. lili*.

The National Plant Board looks forward to continued close cooperation with USDA APHIS PPQ to improve the safeguarding of the agricultural and horticultural resources of other states, and appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the potential de-regulation of plant pests of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M" and "C".

Michael E. Cooper, President
National Plant Board

cc: Jeff Grode, USDA APHIS PPQ
Aurelio Posadas, Executive Secretary

Attachment

Deregulation Evaluation of Established Pests (DEEP)

Due date December 10, 2012

Western Plant Board

Arizona

Arizona agrees with the recommendations in the DEEP reports regarding all 10 listed pests.

Montana

Montana does not have any compelling evidence to disagree with the deregulation of any of these pests. However, Montana is concerned with the deregulation of *Lilioceris lili* (Scopoli): Lily leaf beetle. “The United States has 10 species of *Lilium* and five species of *Fritillaria* under some type of threatened and endangered status (NRCS, 2012) that could be impacted by the beetle.” We are not sure what kind of native lilies occur in Montana, but feeding on endangered species is usually enough to keep a plant pest regulated? The natural heritage program lists Columbia lily, chocolate lily, and a few others as “status under review”.

California

California agrees with the recommendations in the DEEP reports regarding *Acutaspis scutiformis*, *Aleyrodes proletella*, *Cosmopolites sordidu*, *Ferrisia malvastra*, *Phaeosphaeria maydis*, *Phenacoccus parvus*, *Trachymela sloanei* and *Heterodera cruciferae* (Note: California concurs that *H. cruciferae* should be deregulated everywhere else except for Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands; where it is not present.)

CDFA may consider the following pest for FRSMP in the future:

Diaphania indica (Saunders): Cucumber moth

Cucumber moth has historically been regarded as a pest and feeds on a variety of Cucurbitaceae. Larvae feed on leaves where they cluster and fold and weave the leaves together. They can also feed on and puncture the skin of young fruit, especially the fruits that touch leaves. Cucumber moth has been present in Florida since 1946 and has never been considered as a cause of economic damage. However, there are two closely related species *D. nitidalis* (pickleworm: B-rated in California) and *D. hyalinata* (melonworm: A-rated in California) with similar host ranges that are present in Florida and considered pests. It is likely that control measures for these other two moths may prevent economic damage from cucumber moth in Florida. It is uncertain if such treatments are in place in California. CDFA has no opinion on the continued regulation of cucumber moth. California may want to consider petitioning for FRSMP for Cucumber moth at some point in the future.

California does not agree with the recommendations regarding: *Lilioceris lili*, as indicated below. And **CDFA may consider the following pest for FRSMP in the future.**

Lilioceris lili (Scopoli): Lily leaf beetle

In North America Lily leaf beetle is known only from parts of New England and Canada. It has been observed to cause 20%-65% defoliation of wild lilies. Five species in California are endangered or threatened and at risk from this pest: *Lilium occidentale* (Western lily), *L.*

paradlinum ssp. *putleaense* (Pitkin marsh lily), *Fritillaria gentneri* (Gentner's fritillary), *F. roderickii* (Roderick's fritillary), and *F. striata* (Striped adobe-lily). In addition, California has a large floriculture industry that would be affected by the presence of this pest. Cut-flowers alone from lilies were valued at \$57 million in 2009. CDFA disagrees with the recommendation to change lily leaf beetle to non-reportable/non-actionable. California may opt to petition to add *Lilioceris lili* to FRSMP at some point in the future.

Hawaii

Hawaii agrees with the recommendations in the DEEP reports regarding *Cosmopolites sordius*, *Ferrisia malvastra*, *Phenacoccus parvis* and *Trachymela sloanei*

Hawaii does not agree with the recommendations regarding: *Acutaspis scutiformis*, *Aleyrodes proletella*, *Diaphania indica*, *Heterodera cruciferae*, *Lilioceris lili*, and *Phoma maydis*, as indicated below.

Aleyrodes proletella (Aleyrodidae)- Cabbage whitefly

- a. Not reported as established in Hawaii.
- b. Potential pest- Attacks many families of plants. All 12 families listed in the DEEP Report are present in Hawaii. Among the important families are: Asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Compositae, Euphorbiaceae, and Fabaceae.
- c. Recommendation: Do not deregulate. May do well in Hawaii's climate.

Acutaspis scutiformis (Diaspididae)- An armored scale

- a. Not reported as established in Hawaii.
- b. Potential pest- Attacks many families of plants. All 18 families listed in the DEEP Report are present in Hawaii. Among the important families are: Araceae, Arecaceae, Fabaceae, Musaceae, Oleaceae, Orchidaceae, Rubiaceae, and Rutaceae.
- c. Recommendation: Do not deregulate. May do well in Hawaii's climate.

Lilioceris lili (Chrysomelidae)- Lily leaf beetle

- a. Not reported as established in Hawaii.
- b. Potential pest- All 4 families listed in the DEEP Report are established in Hawaii: Liliaceae, Malvaceae, Solanaceae, and Smilacaceae.
- c. Recommendation: Do not deregulate. May do well in Hawaii's climate.

Phoma maydis (Phaeosphaeria maydis)

- a. is not established in Hawaii
- b. under the right environmental conditions can be a significant pest of corn. The corn seed industry is a major industry representing about 35% of our farm gate value.
- c. This should remain actionable for Hawaii

Heterodera cruciferae

- a. is not established in Hawaii
- b. under the right environmental conditions can be a significant pest of crucifers. Crucifers are an important diversified crop for small farmers in Hawaii.
- c. This should remain actionable for Hawaii

Diaphania indica (Crambidae)- Cucumber moth

- a. Not reported as established in Hawaii. *Diaphania nitidalis* has been reported as established in Hawaii.
- b. Potential pest- Preferred hosts are cultivated cucurbits (Cucurbitaceae) including *Citrullus lanatus* (watermelon), *Cucumis* spp. (melons) *Cucumis sativus* (cucumber), *Cucurbita moschata* (pumpkin), and various gourds. *Diaphania nitidalis* in Hawaii can cause much damage and *D. indica* can probably do the same.
- c. Recommendation: Do not deregulate. May do well in Hawaii's climate.

Oregon

Oregon agrees with the recommendations in the DEEP reports regarding *Aleyrodes proletella*, *Cosmopolites sordidus*, *Diaphania indica*, *Ferrisia malvastra*, *Heterodera cruciferae*, and *Trachymela sloanei*.

Oregon does not agree with the recommendations regarding *Acutaspis scutiformis*, *Lillioiceris lili*, *Phaeosphaeria maydis*, and *Phenacoccus parvus*, as detailed below.

Acutaspis scutiformis:

Absence of information regarding spread and potential economic impacts (especially in greenhouses, California, Florida, and Hawaii) is not the same as evidence of lack of spread and of no significant potential economic impacts. Because of the presumably extremely limited U.S. distribution, it only makes sense for it to remain reportable and actionable. The logic applying to retention of reportable status for tropical islands (i.e., geographically distant locales) certainly applies to geographically distant areas even if they are on the same continent.

Lillioiceris lili

The lily leaf beetle is a major threat to native species of *Fritillaria* and *Lilium*, many of which have limited distributions and several of which are already formally listed as threatened or endangered. In Oregon, there is already one listed species of *Fritillaria* and one listed species of *Lilium*. One component of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the Native Plant Conservation Program (NPCP), has invested considerable resources in recovery efforts for *Fritillaria gentneri*. These efforts could be for naught if the lily leaf beetle were to be introduced and established here. When alerted to this possibility, NPCP staff expressed grave concern and felt there was no doubt this insect would pose significant threats to a wide array of potential hosts in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and the West. Although lily leaf beetle can apparently be controlled via some insecticides, application thereof is rarely feasible in natural settings. Biocontrol, if truly effective, may still be inadequate for protection of threatened or endangered hosts. Furthermore, biocontrol agents are often only effective over a limited range of climates. Agents effective in the Northeast may be completely ineffective in the West.

The introduction and establishment of lily leaf beetle in California and Oregon would threaten a unique horticultural niche. 95% of the bulbs grown for the global potted Easter lily market are produced in a small area of northwestern California and southwestern Oregon. Prior to World War II, this market was dominated by Japan. The quality of bulbs from California and Oregon is unrivaled and Japan has never been able to regain this market. On a broader perspective, the production and sale of *Lilium*, and to a lesser degree, *Fritillaria*, is an important component of Oregon's nursery industry. Even if pesticides are effective in controlling lily leaf beetle, there

would be the significant added burden of application costs as well as potential environmental impacts due to run-off and watershed contamination. Furthermore, the impact of the pest on private and display gardens should not be dismissed. There is no question that this dangerous pest must remain reportable and actionable.

Phaeosphaeria maydi

Again, lack of strong evidence regarding spread, establishment potential, and economic impact is not the same as evidence for the lack thereof. A few decades are not long to assess impacts of exotic species, as has been demonstrated many times (brown marmorated stink bug springs to mind). Any exotic pathogen of maize should be treated with great caution. This critical crop provides human and animal food as well as ethanol and all the associated jobs. From Oregon's perspective, the 2011 maize crop was worth over 90 million dollars. Conditions in western Oregon (high humidity and moderate night temperatures throughout much of the year) could well be conducive to disease severity. Given the extremely limited known distribution of this pest in the United States, the only reasonable course of action is to retain its reportable and actionable status. It would be absurd and irresponsible to do otherwise.

Phenacoccus parvus

This pest has strong potential for becoming a significant problem in greenhouses and in suitable climatic regions within the United States. As with most mealybugs, the known host range is large and probably represents a modest fraction of the total potential host range. Mealybugs are notably cryptic and there are profound difficulties with ready recognition of many species. Consequently, "there is no indication that it has spread from Florida" is relatively meaningless. Once again, absence of information regarding spread and impact ("no information to suggest the species is a greenhouse pest") is not the same as evidence about the lack thereof. Since the species is presumably restricted to Florida at this time, it should remain reportable and actionable.

Eastern Plant Board

Over all EPB response was to agree with the recommendations in the DEEP reports regarding all 10 listed pests. The most heartburn was over potential deregulation of *L. liliae*, the lily leaf beetle. This insect is devastating to home gardeners as well as nurseries growing lilies for sale. Even though it has been present in this country for many years, the consensus is that it remain actionable/reportable. It should not be deregulated primarily because of the possible impact to Threaten and Endangered Lilies.

Southern Plant Board

No Southern Plant Board states responded.

Central Plant Board

The only CPB state that responded was Wisconsin. Wisconsin's letter of response follows.