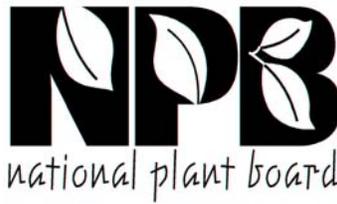


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April 12, 2012

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

Dear Diane:

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

- *Aleurotrachelus atratus*, coconut whitefly
- *Aleucerus palmae*, palm whitefly
- *Aceria mangiferae*, mango bud mite
- *Cacopsylla mali*, apple sucker
- *Coccus viridis*, green scale
- *Euphyllura olivine*, olive psyllid
- *Gymnosporangium confusum*, a rust with no common name
- *Gymnosporangium yamadae*, Japanese apple rust
- *Hyblaea puera*, teak moth
- *Otiorhynchus raucus*, brown punctate weevil

Based on responses received from our members the National Plant Board concurs with those recommendations, except for two of these pests.

We have received concern regarding *Gymnosporangium yamadae* Japanese apple rust and *Cacopsylla mali*, apple sucker which are of concern to the apple industry in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). And Wisconsin has some concerns regarding *Cacopsylla mali*, apple sucker as a possible vector for the apple proliferation disease agent *Candidatus Phytoplasma mali*. Therefore, additional discussion is needed with the PNW apple industry and Wisconsin regarding these two apple pests before deregulation can take place.

D. Schuble
April 12, 2012
Page 2

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 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, slightly slanted style.

Michael E. Cooper, President
National Plant Board

cc: Alan Dowdy, USDA APHIS PPQ
Board of Directors
Brian Kuhn, WI
Dan Hilburn, OR
Brad White, WA
Aurelio Posadas, Executive Secretary