

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2016-41

June 24, 2016

Subject: APHIS Classifies the Potato Blackleg Pathogen, *Dickeya dianthicola*

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

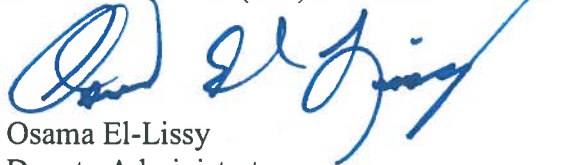
Effective May 17, 2016, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) classified the potato blackleg pathogen *Dickeya dianthicola* as a non-reportable/non-actionable pathogen. APHIS' decision to classify *D. dianthicola* is based on the results of recent confirmatory diagnostic testing and historic reports in the literature of *D. dianthicola* detections that show the pathogen is likely established in the United States.

If *D. dianthicola* is detected at a port of entry, no action will be taken. Should *D. dianthicola* be detected in the United States, APHIS will not conduct survey, regulatory, or control activities. APHIS will continue to confirm the identification of first-time reports of *D. dianthicola* samples from states that have not already submitted samples to PPQ. In addition, APHIS is committed to coordinating with the potato industry, states, and research community to implement best management practices to effectively manage the disease. Seed potato certification agencies are encouraged to implement certification requirements for *D. dianthicola* as part of their overall best management practices. Information on best management practices can be found at:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/potato/downloads/blackleg-%20prevention-control.pdf

At this time, there is no indication that another potato blackleg pathogen, *D. solani*, is present in the United States. APHIS will establish a *Dickeya* technical working group to assess risk, import, and domestic issues regarding *D. solani*.

For additional information about this decision, please contact National Policy Manager Lynn Evans-Goldner at (301) 851-2286.



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