

Pale Cyst Nematode (*Globodera pallida*) Eradication Program- Idaho Falls, Idaho

2014 2nd Quarter Report (April-June)

Background

Pale cyst nematodes (PCN), *Globodera pallida*, are soil-borne organisms that do not infest potato tubers. The pests infest feeder roots, where the females attach, feed, and become sedentary. Nematodes reproduce sexually. Females form cysts containing 200 to 600 eggs, which can stay dormant for up to 30 years while the eggs inside remain viable. On host plants, large numbers of PCN can cause wilting, stunted growth, poor root development, and early plant death. If left uncontrolled, PCN can reduce yields up to 80 percent in potato fields. Even with only minor symptoms showing on the foliage, PCN can significantly reduce tuber size. PCN spreads primarily by the transport of cysts in soil. This may occur with the movement of soil on farming, construction, and other equipment; infested soil adhering to seed potatoes and other regulated crops; and any other items or means of transport such as water.

On April 19, 2006, officials of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) announced the detection of PCN, a major pest of potato crops. This was the first detection of the pest in the United States. The nematode cysts were detected during a routine survey of tare soil at an ISDA grading facility in eastern Idaho. Subsequent 2006 surveying to determine the possible origin and distribution of the pest in Idaho confirmed seven PCN-infested fields totaling 911 acres, all within a one mile radius in Bingham and Bonneville Counties, Idaho. The PCN-infested fields and an area surrounding the fields were placed under a Federal Domestic Quarantine Order and parallel State Rule in August 2006, establishing restrictions on movement of certain regulated articles from Idaho in order to prevent the spread of PCN.

As a result of continued intensive soil sampling since 2007, an additional fifteen PCN-infested fields have been found in Bingham and Bonneville Counties, Idaho. All 22 known infested fields lay within a 5-mile radius. The fields associated with them through shared tenancy, farming practices, equipment, and/or shared borders have been extensively surveyed and regulated. Since program inception, approximately 51,100 acres have been regulated due to their infestation or association with an infested field. Non-infested, associated fields have been eligible for federal deregulation following a sequence of soil surveys with no PCN detections. To date, 42,600 acres have been released from federal regulation; however, some of that acreage was re-regulated due to a new association(s) with an infested field(s). The most recent update to the regulated area was published on May 9, 2014, when PCN was detected in a 92-acre field in Bingham County. Currently, 8,478 acres are regulated, 2,392 acres of which are infested fields.

Eradication treatments in PCN-infested fields have been ongoing since the spring of 2007. Eradication treatments have included methyl bromide fumigation, Telone II fumigation, and planting of biofumigants. Testing of the soil in infested fields indicates the average viability of eggs within the PCN cysts has declined by more than 99% since eradication treatments began. To date, nine infested fields have triggered the bioassay stage of evaluating eradication progress when viable eggs were no longer detected in cysts collected from those fields. One of these fields has also successfully completed the bioassay process, enabling it to return to potato production with certain regulatory and survey requirements remaining in place. Bioassays for the other fields are ongoing at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

General PCN Program information can be found at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/pcn>.

– Click on 'Regulated Fields Maps' under the heading "Quarantine Information" for a list of current and past regulated area maps.

– Click on 'PCN Regulations: 7 CFR 301.86' for the current Federal PCN rule, revised as of January 1, 2010.

Survey Information

Type of survey	Idaho soil samples collected		
	2 nd Quarter of 2014	2014 Year to date	Since program inception
Detection	8,704	9,438	216,351
Delimiting	2,050	2,050	238,077
Eradication	16,468	16,468	86,385
Total	27,222	27,956	540,813

Identification and Diagnostics

Type of survey	Samples processed by the Idaho PCN Laboratory		
	2 nd Quarter of 2014	2014 Year to date	Since program inception
Detection	8,118	12,193	216,342
Delimiting	2,050	2,050	229,085
Eradication	5,696	7,065	74,516
Total	15,846	21,308	519,943

Type of survey	Samples processed at other Idaho laboratories	
	Idaho Food Quality Assurance Laboratory (2006-2009, now closed)	Idaho State Parma Research and Extension Center (2006-2009)
Detection	52,670	69
Delimiting	10,227	896
Total	62,897	965

Program Research

Research is ongoing at the University of Idaho (Moscow, Parma, and Aberdeen campuses) to develop biological control agents and biofumigants against PCN, to elucidate genetic PCN immunity pathways, evaluate the effectiveness of Litchi Tomato (LT) as a trap crop for PCN, and determine agronomics for growing LT in southeast Idaho. Additional information about U of Idaho PCN research can be found at: <http://www.uidaho.edu/cals/idahopcn>.

Work continues at ARS-Prosser to develop more-favorable LT traits to increase its appeal to growers for use as trap crop, produce LT seed for future field trials, and to identify and characterize PCN hatching factors in potatoes, LT, and other non-solanaceous plants.

Eradication Activities

Since 2007, methyl bromide has been applied to the infested fields annually in the spring and was applied to one field in fall 2011. Telone II was applied in the late summer of 2007- 2008 and 2010-2011. Telone II was not used in 2009 due to a world-wide shortage of the chemical. Biofumigants with nematicidal activity were planted in the infested fields in the summers of 2007 (oil radish) and 2009 (arugula).

Seven fields were treated with methyl bromide in May 2014. This was the first treatment for four fields and the second treatment for three fields.

Regulatory Actions

On May 9, 2014, the PCN program detected PCN in a 92-acre field that was already regulated as an associated field. This detection brought the total infested area to 2,392. The total regulated area remains at 8,478 acres.

Regulatory Treatments

Treatment type	Regulatory Treatments (# of pieces of equipment)		
	2 nd Quarter of 2014	2014 Year to date	Since program inception
Pressure Washed	774	887	15,640
Steam Sanitized	155	181	2,264
Total	929	1,068	17,904

Self-Certification Program

Treatment type	Regulatory Treatments (# of pieces of equipment treated by qualified self-certifying program stakeholders)		
	1 st Quarter of 2014*	2014 Year to date*	Since program inception*
Pressure Washed	6	6	2,163

*Self-certification data will lag one quarter behind all other Program data in order to accommodate stakeholder data reporting deadlines.

Regulatory Documentation

Documentation type	Regulatory Documentation		
	2 nd Quarter of 2014	2014 Year to date	Since program inception
Certificate (PPQ 540)	273	315	8,373
Limited Permit (PPQ 530)	180	216	2,300
New compliance agreements	0	0	160

Impacts on Commerce

In response to the initial PCN detection in 2006, Canada, Mexico and Korea shut off importation of potatoes from Idaho, while Japan cut off importation of potatoes from the entire U.S. The Mexican and Canadian export markets have both been re-opened with the exception of potatoes from PCN-regulated areas. Both require PCN soil surveys from origin fields. The Korean market was reopened in June 2010 with the exception of potatoes originating from Bingham and Bonneville Counties, ID. The Japanese market remains closed to Idaho potatoes but negotiations are actively underway to re-gain market access. Because of extensive field surveys conducted throughout production areas in Idaho, all of which have been negative beyond the nineteen infested fields, the general opinion by our trading partners is that potatoes produced outside regulated areas do not pose the biological risk for introduction of PCN.

Communication and Outreach

- On April 1, 2014, PCN program staff presented self-certification training at the PCN facility to 6 program stakeholders representing two local farming operations.
- During the week of April 21, 2014, PCN program staff conducted door-to-door outreach to local residents and businesses to inform them of the upcoming methyl bromide fumigation in late April and early May.
- On April 29-30, 2014, Matt Royer, Field Operations Executive Director, visited the Pale Cyst Nematode Program in Idaho Falls. The trip included visiting with PPQ employees, cooperators and stakeholders, as well as learning about and seeing the various PPQ operations in Idaho.
- May 6, 2014, representatives of Senator Risch's office and the Idaho Potato Commission visited the PCN Program facility to learn more about the PCN eradication effort.

The next stakeholder update is due out in September 2014. General PCN Program information can be found at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/planthealth/pcn>.

– Click on [Program Updates](#) under the heading “Program Updates” for a list of current and past program updates.