



PPQ—Pest Eradication and Management

If harmful foreign pests and diseases enter the United States, Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ)—a program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—is prepared to detect them early and respond rapidly and effectively. PPQ works closely with Federal, State, tribal, and industry partners to reduce damage to agriculture and natural resources and continues to make great progress in eradicating foreign plant pests and diseases in our country. PPQ also continues to contain and suppress foreign pests and diseases to prevent their further spread.

Prepared for Action

Preparedness is vital to PPQ’s ability to effectively respond to invasive plant pest introductions. To prepare for plant health emergencies, PPQ:

- Gathers intelligence on an international scale about pests of significance to the United States to identify immediate threats
- Develops New Pest Response Guidelines that detail the methods and tools PPQ and its partners will use to contain and control plant pests
- Identifies resources needed to respond to plant health emergencies

- Establishes the infrastructure needed to maintain a strong safeguarding system, especially as it relates to pest early warning, survey, and identification and diagnostic systems
- Conducts training to ensure and maintain rapid, consistent, and effective pest management, emergency response, and coordination

Early Detection and Rapid Response

PPQ works to detect and respond to invasive plant pest and disease incursions and outbreaks as soon as possible, before they can spread and cause serious damage. PPQ’s early detection and rapid response activities include:

- Surveying to detect foreign plant pests and diseases and, if found, determine the boundaries of an incursion or outbreak
- Establishing a technical working group of scientific experts from Federal and State agencies, universities, the private sector, and international organizations who provide timely, technical information that PPQ uses to determine an effective response
- Obtaining emergency funding

PPQ and its partners eliminated plum pox virus from Niagara County, NY, and kept 99.5 percent of 16 million cotton acres free from boll weevil in 2015. In 2016, they successfully eradicated the destructive European grapevine moth from the United States.



- Mobilizing emergency personnel and resources using the Incident Command System under a unified command structure
- Enacting an emergency regulatory framework by issuing emergency action notifications detailing specific and immediate actions to address a pest or disease detection, Federal quarantine orders to stop or regulate the movement of potentially infested or infected materials from a defined geographical area, or rules to establish long-term regulatory requirements to prevent the spread of plant pests and diseases
- Implementing protocols for communication, public outreach, and data management
- Working with Federal agencies; State, tribal, and local governments; and industries to implement coordinated actions designed to contain, control, and eradicate plant pests and diseases
- Protecting human health and the environment by complying with environmental laws when we must use treatments to control plant pests



A PPQ employee checks an emerald ash borer trap to detect new infestations and monitor the spread of the beetle.



A PPQ employee examines a citrus tree for signs of disease.

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When an invasive plant pest or disease becomes established in the United States, PPQ works with Federal agencies; State, tribal, and local governments; and the private sector to develop and implement programs designed to provide long-term stability and protection from the pest or disease. Specifically, PPQ will:

- Implement an eradication program, when feasible, to eliminate the pest and the risks associated with it
- Implement a pest mitigation program to reduce the spread, damage, and economic impact of a pest that is difficult to control and almost impossible to eradicate
- Develop integrated pest management plans that producers can use to suppress pest populations below economically significant levels
- Enact a regulatory framework by issuing interim rules to establish quarantines, publishing proposed and final rules to establish long-term requirements to prevent the spread of plant pests or diseases, and issuing compliance agreements with industry to ensure compliance with established regulations
- Conduct outreach about established pests and steps the public can take to prevent their spread

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