

**Southern Plant Board  
April 4-7, 2004  
Williamsburg, Virginia**

**Resolution # 5**

**AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE SYSTEMATIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS**

Exotic invasive species cost U.S. plant industries tens of billions of dollars each year and the threat of new invasive introductions continues to grow with the increasing globalization of trade and tourism. In addition, the export of U.S. agricultural products is a critical part of the U.S. economy that requires commodities be free of pests and pathogens that may threaten other countries. Preventing new invasive introductions and facilitating agricultural exports requires a cadre of highly trained experts qualified to provide accurate identification of pest organisms.

The federal government plays a key, unique role in the delivery of systematic (taxonomic) services and products, and the level of funding has been declining sharply over the past 15 years leaving critical gaps in coverage for systematic research and services.

**Resolved:** That the members of the Southern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, supports the President's FY' 2005 budget request for an increase of \$1 million dollars in funding for the systematics research programs included as part of the USDA ARS invasive species initiative at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Motion to Adopt: Benny Graves  
Seconded by: Frank Fulgham

**Distribution:**

Ann Veneman, Secretary, USDA  
Bill Hawks, Under Secretary, USDA  
Joseph Jen, Under Secretary, REE - USDA  
Dr. Ed Knipling, Administrator, USDA-ARS  
Dr. Phyllis Johnson, Area Director, ARS-USDA - Beltsville  
Dr. Richard Dunkle, Deputy Administrator, USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Rick Kirchhoff, CEO, NASDA  
Gus Douglass, Chairman, Animal and Plant Industries Committee, NASDA  
Bob Ehart, APHIS Coordinator, NASDA  
Bill Dickerson, President, National Plant Board & Regional Plant Board Presidents