

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2011-44
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SUBJECT: Status of European Pepper Moth (EPM), *Duponchelia fovealis*

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is providing information on the current status and strategy for the European Pepper Moth (EPM), *Duponchelia fovealis*, in the United States.

On October 29, 2010, APHIS provided information on national survey results indicating that EPM was detected in 13 states, including Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington. The national survey was conducted in cooperation with State departments of agriculture as a result of the initial detection of EPM in California on July 16, 2010.

In partnership with the National Plant Board, APHIS convened discussions with subject matter experts, affected States, and potentially impacted industries, and has concluded that traditional containment and regulatory approaches may not be practical solutions for EPM. This determination is based on the wide distribution and current host range of EPM, which includes peppers, pomegranates, aquatic plants, bedding plants, and nursery stock.

As an alternative to a regulatory program, APHIS, State cooperators, and industry stakeholders are establishing an ad hoc EPM Task Force to facilitate the development and communication of Pest Management Practices (PMP) in order to prevent or minimize the pest's potential effects on various industries within American agriculture. The task force will encompass three main groups, including: Industry Leadership (IL), Technical Working Group (TWG), and Interagency Working Group (IWG). IL consists of representatives from potentially-impacted industries, including fruit and vegetables, floriculture, and nursery and is responsible for providing the overall coordination and communication of the PMP. The TWG consists of subject matter experts and specialists from universities, extension service, private industry, Federal, and State agencies, and NGOs and is responsible for providing the technical support for the PMP. The IWG includes federal and state regulatory officials from potentially impacted states to provide operational and logistical support to the task force.

For additional information on the EPM task force, you may contact Diane Schuble, Staff Officer, at (301) 734-8723.

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