



SPRING 2011 NEWS LETTER

W.H.I.S. 11th ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE



October 3rd through October 6th, 2011

Colorado State Department of Agriculture will be our HOST for the next WHIS annual meeting.

Lodging Accommodations Offered by:

Main Street Suites Downtown Grand Junction/Hampton Inn

Sales Manager Mary Manfred

205 Main Street * Grand Junction, Co 81501

Phone 970-243-3222 * Fax 970-254-8208

(Shuttle service available from airport to hotel. Amtrak Train Station located 3 blocks from hotel.)

October 3rd - Hospitality Room - 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM:

Travelers can meet up with fellow attendees and catch up with old friends over light refreshments.

October 4th – Speaker Series:

A full day of educational sessions are planned and tentatively include: Japanese Beetle in Colorado Past & Present, A Panel Discussion on Quarantine & Geographical Issues Affecting Imports & Exports, Regional Concerns for Present and Future Quarantine Pests, Impact of Forest Pests, Biological Control for Tamarisk, Noxious Weeds and Alfalfa Weevil, Seed Industry in Colorado, 2011 CAPS Data and Group Discussion.

October 5th – Field Trip:

Tours tentatively include: CSU Extension Farm, Biological Pest Control Division Palisade Insectary, Scenic Route Over Grand Mesa, Tree Farm / Nursery, Organic Orchard and a Lumber Mill Export Facility.

October 6th – Business Meeting:

Our Morning Meeting from 8:00 to 11:00 to include state reports.

Please contact your administrators and encourage participation in this year's annual meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to not only connect with our counterparts in other Western States but also provides for a valuable educational experience that will showcase Colorado horticulture at its finest.

For additional information please contact David Gordon: David.Gordon@ag.state.co.us

Reminder: *Imperata cylindrica* listed as federal noxious weed

BY: Sherree Lewis, ODA Horticulturist and Alec Ormsby, USDA-PPQ Trade Compliance



Although it is popular and widely available in the industry, ‘Japanese Bloodgrass’ or ‘Red Baron,’ *Imperata cylindrica*, is a federal noxious weed (Title 7, section 360 of the code of federal regulations). Unlike most federal noxious weeds, however, the sale of *I. cylindrica* is allowed, provided applicable conditions are met. Nurseries should be aware that shipments of *I. cylindrica* that cross state lines must be accompanied by a federal permit (PPQ Form 526) from USDA’s Plant Protection & Quarantine Program (USDA-PPQ). The regulations allow states to choose whether they want to accept the entry of *I. cylindrica*. Federal permits are required for states that allow entry. Currently, the states that accept shipments of *I. cylindrica* are: CA, CT, IL, IN, MA, MI, NE, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, VA, WA, and WI, and Guam.

Shipments to states not listed above are prohibited. Plants that ship without a federal permit are subject to seizure, and fines can be issued under the Plant Protection Act.

Nurseries that stock and sell *I. cylindrica* should keep a few other points in mind:

- Only sterile, red cultivars of the plant intended for use as ornamentals are eligible for shipment. The “wild” species form of *I. cylindrica* (the green form) does not qualify.
- The list of states willing to accept the plant can change. If there is any doubt about the current status of a state, the shipping nursery should contact the USDA for clarification (see contact information below).
- The regulation applies to all interstate movement, whether the shipment is being imported or exported. A nursery receiving an import of *I. cylindrica* should check to make sure the shipper has a permit, or the plants may later be subject to seizure by the USDA. Movement within a state’s borders is not regulated by USDA-PPQ.
- State noxious weed lists may also include *I. cylindrica*. Shippers should check with the Department of Agriculture for the state in question for additional restrictions. It is important to note that while *I. cylindrica* does not explicitly appear on some state noxious weed lists, those states may have requested USDA-PPQ not to issue permits. This is because most state lists incorporate the federal weed list by default.
- USDA-PPQ usually issues the permits for one year. There is no charge for the permits.

Imperata cylindrical (continued)

In its "wild" species form, *I. cylindrical*, also known as "cogongrass," has been rated one of the world's 10 worst weeds. Native to SE Asia, it was intentionally introduced into the US in the early 1900s as packing material for imported goods, and also for use as forage and erosion control. The species form spreads aggressively both by seed and rhizomes and shows strong resistance to herbicides. Its ability to adapt to a wide range of growing conditions further contributes to its success as a weed. Because of these characteristics, the plant can out-compete crops and exclude native vegetation, degrading both rangeland and natural habitat. Horticulturally improved cultivars, such as 'Red Baron,' are sterile, though some debate remains about whether this sterility is failsafe and whether the plants may still show unwanted spread through rhizomes. The USDA-PPQ permit requirements are designed to monitor trade in *I. cylindrical* in case of adverse developments with the plant. Also, the permit process serves as a means for keeping the industry informed about potential changes in the law.

Contacts and resources

To apply for a USDA-PPQ permit or for questions about the permit process, contact:

USDA Pest Permit Evaluations

301-734-0841, Toll Free 866-524-5421

E-mail: Pest.Permits@aphis.usda.gov

Permit applications are available online at the USDA website:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits/ppq_epermits.shtml

Two other websites that nurseries may find useful regarding state and federal requirements affecting the industry are listed below. The USDA-NRCS site pulls together links to the federal and all state noxious weed lists. The National Plant Board site provides synopses of plant quarantines for each of the 50 states:

USDA-NRCS state/federal weed site at <http://plants.usda.gov/java/noxiousDriver>

National Plant Board state/federal regulations summary site at <http://nationalplantboard.org/laws/index.html>

PLEASE NOTE:

Is there a topic that you would like to see reviewed in this newsletter? Do you have illustrations that others might find amusing or pictures that others might find of interest? Do you have new staff members or program changes that you would like to announce? If so, please contact WHIS Editor, John Wraspir – jwraspir@agr.wa.gov