



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURE  
1220 N Street, Room A-316  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## PEST RATING ADVISORY

NO. 1-2005

DATE: November 4, 2005

TO: **All County Agricultural Commissioners**

FROM: **Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services**

SUBJECT: **Policy for Rating Plants Sold as Nursery Stock**

### **Actions to be taken when an unrated plant species (or taxa) found in a nursery is submitted to CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostic Center:**

The Pest and Damage Report must contain the following information:

- Activity 06,
- Situation – transportation or nursery,
- Remarks – the statement “sold as nursery stock” is to be included in the remarks section.

If the identifying taxonomist has reason to believe that the species exhibits weedy characteristics, it will be assigned a rating of **“H”** for **temporary holding action**.

Actions in nursery setting for plants that receive an “H” rating:

- Hold order is to be issued at nursery;
- Any 008s issued at an agricultural inspection station will include the “H” rating.

Concurrently, an “H” rating will trigger a review by the CDFA/CACASA Triage Team whose membership will consist of the current Plant Health division study team and a representative from each CACASA area group (an alternate will also be appointed). This team will:

- Evaluate the taxa in timely manner taking into consideration the length of time it has been in commerce as nursery stock, quantity being sold;
- whether or not it is established in the environment, urban, rural, and/or landscape settings, weedy characteristics, beneficial uses;
- Team members will consult with appropriate stakeholders
- Meetings may be conducted via email;
- Propose a rating of A, B, C, or D within a 30 day time period after the identification has been made and an “H” has been assigned.

Once rated, an official “Pest Rating Advisory for Plants Sold as Nursery Stock” will be published. This rating will become permanent one year from the date of publication unless new information warrants a further review. All other non-rated plant samples, i.e., other than plants sold as nursery stock, submitted to Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory will be given a “Q” or “D” -rating according to the current policy and the agricultural commissioner will be immediately notified.

**Communication Procedures:**

- The chair of Triage Team will be immediately notified of non-rated nursery plant samples submitted for identification;
- If necessary the chair will then notify the appropriate agricultural commissioner to submit an official sample;
- The Triage Team will notified of the need to convene and propose a rating;
- Triage Team CACASA representatives will notify and consult its area group members;
- An official “Pest Rating Advisory for Plants Sold as Nursery Stock” will be published;
- The Plant Quarantine Manual page of rated nursery stock will be updated.