

California Department of Food & Agriculture
Integrated Pest Control Branch
BROOMRAPE BOARD
Research Subcommittee
Monday, October 27th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.
California Department of Food and Agriculture
3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95814
AND Virtually via GoTo Meeting
October 27, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES

SUBCOMMITTEE
MEMBERS PRESENT

Ron Dalforno
Tony Turkovich
David Viguie

NON-SUBCOMMITTEE
BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT

Derek Azevedo*
Michael Newton*
Scott Schmidt*

CDFA PERSONNEL

Kaitlyn Beames*
Andrew Boren
Michelle Dennis
Zack McCormack
Victoria Hornbaker*

Subject Matter Experts

Zach Bagley, California Tomato Research Institute
Mike Montna, California Tomato Growers Association
Dr. Brad Hanson, University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources
Dr. Neil McRoberts, University of California, Davis

GUESTS

Humberto Izquierdo, Yolo County Agricultural Commissioner*
Melissa Cregan, Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner*

*Participated virtually

CALL TO ORDER

The Broomrape Research Subcommittee Meeting was convened at 1:05 pm by Committee Chairman, David Viguie, and introductions were made.

BAGLEY-KEENE OPEN MEETING ACT

The meeting was held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no minutes for approval at this time.

CDFA PROGRAM UPDATE

CDFA provided an update on CDFA staff program activities. It was discussed that there is currently no regulatory language that differentiates between different species of broomrape. An update of permitting status for Egyptian broomrape research was given.

COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT

California Tomato Research Institute (CTRI) staff provided a presentation of compliance agreement language identified for review by the subcommittee. The following items were reviewed and discussed:

Exhibit G-1, 1

- Current: No soil or plant debris, except MOT in gondola, shall be moved from a high-risk premise.
- Issue: Need a standard that is reasonably achievable. The word no is of concern.
- Proposed Change Options:
 - 1. Virtually Free from soil and plant debris, except MOT in gondola, shall be moved from a high-risk premise.
 - 2. Reasonably free from soil and plant debris, except MOT in gondola, shall be moved from high-risk premise.
- Also, photos used as examples (of roadside cleaning and results) could be in a UC handout.
- This will be used for all areas in agreements that said No Soil or Plant Debris in 2025 agreements.

Exhibit G-1 #5

- Current: An area shall be designated for equipment entering and exiting a High-Risk Premise.
- Issue: Question arose of some growers wanting to move loads to a designated wash area on ranch.
- Discussed Change Options:
 - If grower has a cleaning station within an acceptable distance and equipment can be moved without increasing risk to that area.
 - This matter will be looked at more closely by the subcommittee to come up with potential options based on science/realities.

Exhibit G-1 #6

- Current: All persons authorized by Establishment to enter a High-Risk Premise(s) shall be trained in Broomrape identification, and the Establishment shall report the exact location of suspect broomrape plants to the Program within 48 hours of detection.

- Issue: Who reports to the program? What is reported to the program? All involved should be notified (i.e. grower/processor, contractor)?
- Possible Changes/Discussed Options:
 - Create an app where reporting can occur.
 - Designate who should report to whom.
 - Maybe use County Site ID.
 - Need a form so people know what info to report to the program.

Exhibit G-1 #7

- Current: Establishment shall remove suspect broomrape plants upon detection.
- Issue: Need to set some type of recommendation/parameters as to when this should be done.
- Possible Changes/ Discussed Change Options:
 - The recommendation could be to remove before flowering. (Approximately 3 weeks from emergence to flowering).
 - University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) staff may be able to develop a model for growers to be able to input information for the best time to rogue.

Exhibit G-1 #8

- Current: Suspect broomrape plants must be solarized on site or on premise under direct control of Establishment prior to disposal. See Broomrape Board recommended guidelines.
- Issue: Based on discussions, solarization is a great way to kill seeds, and the most important factor is to remove them from fields to a proper disposal landfill. The focus should be to remove plants with no spillage.
- Recommendation:
 - Remove solarization language from the agreement as a must do and focus on removing broomrape. Make sure that DO NOT COMPOST is observed. Need to get all counties in the Designated Zone SB 1383 in compliance, like Yolo County.

Exhibit G-1 #9

- Current: All persons authorized by Establishment to enter a High-Risk Premise shall use single use, disposable footwear coverings or clean footwear or all soil and plant material. See Broomrape Board recommended guidelines.
- Issue: Clean footwear should be sufficient and in some cases is better.
- Recommendation:

- Remove disposable footwear language and leave clean footwear.

Exhibit P-1 #7

- Current: Trucks and trailers arriving from a High-Risk Premise shall be cleaned prior to leaving facility. See Broomrape Board Recommended Guidelines.
- Issue: Need a cleaning standard.
- Recommendation:
 - Education/outreach on desired results. This could also be done with pictures in a handout. This will be worked on by the research committee.

Exhibit P-2 #3 & 4 & Exhibit T-2 #3 & 4

- Current #3: Trucks and trailers transporting harvested tomato fruit from a non-infested field outside of a Designated Zone shall be cleaned free of soil and plant material prior to exiting the processing facility except when returning to the same non-infested field.
- Current #4: Trucks and trailers transporting harvested tomato fruit from a non-infested field inside the Designated Zone shall be cleaned free of soil and plant material prior to exiting the Designated Zone.
- Issue: With the amount of equipment/logistics involved, how did this go the first year? Is this sustainable?
- Discussion Results:
 - Meet with processors and haulers to discuss how this worked and solicit feedback for improvement if needed. Currently all trailers need to be washed except those outside the zone harvesting and those harvesting in a non-infested field, returning to the same field. Is this acceptable/achievable based on this years' experience?

POST HARVEST CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS

CTRI staff provided a presentation of post-harvest control recommendations identified for review by the subcommittee. The following items were reviewed and discussed:

- Do G1 fields get recorded, how public is this information, and who has access to it?
- How will the Program deal with other host commodities that have no existing compliance agreements?
- Conditions to return a G1 status to G2.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

No update was provided.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEXT MEETING AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next Research Subcommittee Meeting was scheduled for Friday November 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at California Department of Food and Agriculture 3294 Meadowview Road, Sacramento, CA 95814.

ADJOURN

Mr. Viguie adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Zack McCormack
Secretary to the Board

DRAFT