

NIPM Item #10

INSPECTION AND DISPOSITION OF INCOMING SHIPMENTS SUGGESTED PROCEDURES

These procedures are outlined as a guide for the inspection and disposition of incoming shipments of nursery stock to ensure compliance with quarantine and nursery stock pest cleanliness, labeling, and quality standards.

- I. QUARANTINE INSPECTION - All incoming shipments not accompanied by the "California Nursery Stock Certificate" or by the "Origin Inspection Certificate for Interstate Shipments" must be inspected to determine compliance with exterior, interior and other quarantine requirements and to ensure that the shipments are free from serious agricultural pests.
 - A. Purpose - Quarantine inspection is a pest exclusion activity, which aims to prevent the introduction of a pest into an area where it does not already occur, or into an area where legally established suppression or eradication activities are directed against it.
 - B. Compliance With Specific Quarantine Requirements - Nursery stock should be checked for proper certification as to required treatments, processing or handling as set forth in Exterior Quarantine or Interior Quarantine Regulations, and Quarantine Circulars. If the shipment or stock fails to comply, it should be rejected by issuing a "Quarantine Rejection Notice."

Such "Notices" are legal documents and should be prepared carefully, clearly indicating why the rejection is being made and citing the appropriate sections of the California Food and Agricultural and/or Administrative Codes, or other quarantine restrictions. The owner may be given the option of obtaining the required certification, returning the shipment to origin, or applying the appropriate treatments permitted in the particular quarantine requirement. When treatment is not possible, the shipment should be returned to origin or destroyed, at the owner's option and expense.

- C. Exclusion of Serious Pests - After it is determined that specific quarantine treatment, processing, and handling requirements have been met; nursery stock should be inspected for serious agricultural pests. Close visual inspection of representative sample(s) of each kind of nursery stock in the shipment should be made for surface pests or pests that may be transported among the plants or in the containers. When appropriate, root samples should be collected to test for nematodes. When pests are found, specimens should be submitted to CDFA laboratory for identification by a qualified professional. After the pests are identified, appropriate quarantine action should be taken:
 1. "A" or "Q" rated pests - A "Quarantine Rejection Notice" should be issued when "A" or "Q" rated pests are found. The Department's guidelines for such ratings are set forth in "Action Oriented Rating System," Q. C. Circular No. 213.
 2. "B" or "C" rated pests - When "B" or "C" rated pests are found infesting a shipment of nursery stock, a determination as to whether quarantine action is necessary or not should be made on the basis of whether the pest is of common occurrence, and not being subjected to eradication or **intensive control** in the **area of destination**. Decisions on "B" and "C" rated weed pests are set forth in the California Plant Quarantine Manual, Weed Policy.

Item, C. 2., uses two terms, an understanding of which is critical to the decision making: "Area of Destination" and "Intensive Control." Those terms are defined as follows:

- a. Area of Destination - An "Area of Destination" may be considered as any area in which agriculture can or cannot be effectively protected from a particular pest by quarantine action. It may be large or small (even a single property) and would not necessarily be the same with respect to different pests.

In determining whether agriculture in a given "Area of Destination" can be effectively protected by quarantine action against an animal or organism dangerous or detrimental to the agricultural industry and not covered by a state of federal quarantine, factors to be considered should include:

- (1) Present distribution.
 - (a) Within the area under consideration.
 - (b) Immediately adjacent thereto.
 - (2) Whether or not the pest is being subjected to eradication or intensive control wherever found within the area under consideration.
 - (3) Ability to spread by natural means.
 - (a) Mobility of the animal or organism.
 - (b) Is it carried by wind, water, etc.
 - (c) Geographic barriers.
 - (d) Presence of hosts.
 - (4) Likelihood of spread by other carriers despite quarantine action.
- b. Intensive control is control approaching eradication; control to the point where inspection after treatment reveals no living organisms.

If rejection is to be made in accordance with the foregoing criteria, a "Quarantine Rejection Notice" should be issued citing the appropriate Food and Agricultural Code Section(s). Among the sections that may apply are 6341, 6461, and 6521.

- D. Disposition of High Hazard Shipments - Special arrangements should be made with nurseries who periodically or more frequently receive nursery stock shipments from high hazard areas. An origin may be considered high hazard by virtue of the hosts and pests involved and the quality of origin inspection. Both factors, in most instances, will have been determined by inspection experience with specific shippers and their origins. The special arrangements may include reasonable isolation and post-entry holding requirements. Advice on these situations may be obtained by calling Pest Exclusion / Nursery, Seed, and Cotton Program.
- II. NURSERY INSPECTION - When the shipment is consigned by or to a California nursery for resale in California and it has been determined that quarantine action is not appropriate, nursery stock should be inspected to determine compliance with pest cleanliness, labeling, and quality standards.

A. Inspection

1. Pest Cleanliness (Sections 3060.1, 3060.2 and 3640 California Code of Regulations) - Is the nursery stock commercially clean with respect to common pests of general distribution in California ("C" rated pests)? Is the stock free of pests of limited or wide but not general distribution in California ("B" rated pests)? Is the stock to be used for farm planting unaccompanied by a state of origin certificate of plant-parasitic nematode cleanliness? If so, it should be sampled for plant-parasitic nematodes according to sampling procedures outlined in Nursery Inspection Procedures Manual Item # 7.1. Samples collected should be submitted to the CDFA laboratory for extraction and diagnosis. Nursery stock for farm planting infested with "B" or "C" rated nematodes does not meet the "commercially clean" standard and a notice of noncompliance should be issued.

Established plantings of trees, shrubs or other plants, removed from one location and transported to another for planting, propagation or landscaping present several problems. Therefore, a separate set of procedures, Nursery Inspection Procedures Manual Item #11, has been developed to cover the handling and disposition of such problems.

2. Labeling - If the stock is labeled, it must be in compliance with the labeling requirements as per the Food and Agricultural Code, Section 53481.
3. Quality - The stock should be in compliance with quality standards as set forth in Food and Agricultural Code Sections 53451 - 53452.

- B. Noncompliance Notice - A "Nursery Stock Notice of Noncompliance" should be issued when nursery stock fails to comply with any of the foregoing requirements. A notation should be made on the "Noncompliance" form under "Disposition" that "Stock is for resale in California." Stock that does not comply may be permitted movement to the nursery premises; but, it should be placed under official hold by checking the appropriate boxes on the "Noncompliance" form for violation of the sections of the Code(s) that apply. The "Noncompliance" form is a legal document and should be completed carefully, indicating what violations were found and what the disposition should be.

The "noncompliance" form should be issued unless the stock is brought into compliance at the point of interception by treatment or sorting.

The "noncompliance" form should not be used:

1. To reject a shipment for quarantine purposes.
2. For a shipment from outside the state unless consigned to a nursery in California. If consigned to a nursery in California, Section 3060.2 applies to the stock handled by that nursery. In such instances a notation should be made on the form under "Disposition" that "the stock is for resale in California."

- III. NURSERY STOCK NOT CONSIGNED TO A NURSERY - Nursery stock consigned to a homeowner, farmer, or others but not to a nursery is subject to quarantine inspection and disposition; it is not subject to compliance with laws and regulations establishing nursery stock standards. When a quarantine rejection is not made and common pests or quality problems are found, a notice of the findings may be issued to the consignee. The "Nursery Stock Notice of Noncompliance" may be used for this purpose. Under "Disposition" on the "Notice," the statement "Stock released to consignee" should be entered. A recommended treatment may be included at the discretion of the commissioner.