



September 5, 2002

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Dear Permittee:

In accordance with the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 and 7 CFR Part 331; Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is requiring facilities possessing listed agents to notify APHIS of this possession by completing and submitting PPQ Form 655 "Notification of Possession or Use of Listed Plant Pathogens", no later than October 11, 2002. The following plant pathogens are considered listed agents in 7 CFR 331:

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Plant Protection
And Quarantine

USDA APHIS
4700 River Rd.
Unit 133
Riverdale, MD
20737

Liberobacter africanus, Liberobacter asiaticus
Peronosclerospora philippinensis
Phakopsora pachyrhizi
Plum pox potyvirus
Ralstonia solanacearum Race 3
Sclerophthora rayssiae var. *zeae*
Synchytrium endobioticum
Xanthomonas oryzae pv. *oryzicola*
Xylella fastidiosa (citrus variegated chlorosis strain)

You have received this letter as part of our notification process. Our plant pest permit records indicate that you may have one of the above listed agents in your possession or at your facility. If you possess or know of anyone possessing any of the listed agents you (they) need to notify the responsible facility official at your facility.

As defined in 7 CFR 331.1, a "facility" is any individual or government agency, university, corporation, company, partnership, society, association, firm, or other legal entity located at a single geographic site. Each facility should designate a responsible facility official to complete PPQ Form 655. When completed by the responsible facility official, this form should reflect all listed agents (plant pathogens listed above) possessed by all persons within the facility. The responsible facility official should be a senior management official or safety officer of the facility.

The responsible facility official must review and sign PPQ Form 655 and will be the person contacted if APHIS has questions regarding the facility. The responsible facility official should consult with others (e.g., principal investigators) as necessary to obtain information required for notification. A negative response does not need to be submitted, if none of the above listed agents are present at your facility.

A copy of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002, the Federal Register Notice and PPQ Form 655 are enclosed. Please read these documents closely. The responsible facility official must obtain the necessary information and return a single PPQ form 655 by October 11, 2002.



APHIS Protecting American Agriculture

Equal Opportunity Employer

Completed forms must be mailed to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Biological and Technical Services
4700 River Road, Unit 133,
Riverdale, MD 20737-1236.
Attention: Gwendolyn Burnett

Assistance in completing this form may be requested by calling (301) 734-7211. The PPQ Form 655 is available on the internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits>.

Sincerely,



John H. Payne
Acting Director APHIS Plant Health Programs
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Enclosure/s/:

Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002
Federal Register Notice (FR Vol. 67, No. 155, 552383 et seq., August 12, 2002)
PPQ Form 655: Notification of Possession or Use of Listed Plant Pathogens
Self-addressed stamped envelope