

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2021-31
November 5, 2021

Subject: Potato Wart Detection on Prince Edward Island, Canada

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

I am writing you to share some important information regarding the potato wart situation on Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada. Earlier in October, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) detected potato wart in two separate potato processing fields (331 acres) in PEI. The potatoes in those fields were intended for processing in PEI, and fortunately, none of them were shipped to the United States. Nevertheless, CFIA has agreed to voluntarily suspend seed potato shipments to the United States. This soil-borne disease of potatoes is caused by a fungus, *Synchytrium endobioticum*, and seed potatoes are one of the known pathways for its spread.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) continues to coordinate the response strategy to the detections. APHIS has requested additional information from CFIA regarding the situation. CFIA is currently conducting traceforward and traceback surveys for the two fields and has completed a preliminary investigation and soil sampling in each field. The soil testing will take some time to complete. CFIA will provide the test results as they become available, as well as detailed information APHIS requested regarding the detections. We will base our next steps on this information.

I want to assure you that safeguarding the U.S. potato industry against potato wart is a top priority for APHIS. We will continue to update you as we receive additional information.

Information on potato wart is available on the following websites:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/nematode/potato/ct_potatowart

[North American Plant Protection Organization \(NAPPO\) Official Pest Report
https://www.pestalerts.org/official-pest-report/new-report-potato-wart-synchytrium-endobioticum-prince-edward-island-canada-1](https://www.pestalerts.org/official-pest-report/new-report-potato-wart-synchytrium-endobioticum-prince-edward-island-canada-1)

For additional information, please call National Policy Manager Lynn Evans-Goldner at (301) 851-2286 or lynn.evans-goldner@usda.gov.



Dr. Osama A. El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine