

## Overview of NAPPO RSPM 18

### Guidelines for Regulatory Action Following Detection of Plum Pox Virus in NAPPO Member Countries

**Purpose:** Plum pox virus (PPV) is a devastating viral disease of stone fruit that may infect peaches, apricots, plums, nectarines, almonds, sweet and tart cherries. It is transmitted primarily by the movement of infected planting material (e.g., rootstock, budwood, seed). The purpose of this standard is to ensure the safe movement of PPV-susceptible planting material among NAPPO member countries by describing actions to be taken after PPV is detected.

**Contents:** The standard addresses modes of transmission and spread of PPV; actions to be taken after PPV is detected; procedures for establishing and maintaining PPV Pest Free Areas (PFA), Pest Free Places of Production (PFPP), and Pest Free Production Sites (PFPS); suspension and reinstatement of PPV-free status; measures to be followed after eradication of PPV; and procedures for certifying that planting material is free of PPV.



**Summary of RSPM 18:** The standard focuses primarily on preventing transmission and spread of PPV through the movement of diseased planting material. After PPV is detected, delimiting surveys are undertaken to identify the boundaries of the infestation and to establish a quarantine area around the infestation. A PPV eradication program includes removal of all infested and exposed trees in orchards, nurseries, natural, residential, public, or commercial properties. Trace-back and trace-forward investigations are undertaken to establish the origin and destination of all planting material that has entered or left the quarantine area. All propagative material is extensively surveyed for the presence of PPV.

A Pest Free Area (PFA) may be established where surveillance indicates that PPV is not present. The area should be no closer than 10 kilometers to a quarantine area. Only PPV-free material may enter the PFA. The material must have been officially tested and found free of PPV, or must have originated in a PFA, PFPP, or PFPS. Maintenance of a PFA includes general surveillance and orchard surveys, supplemented by surveys of planting material sources, and monitoring of culled fruit at packing houses. Requirements for establishing Pest Free Places of Production (PFPP) and Pest Free Production Sites (PFPS) are similar in many respects to the requirements for establishing a PFA.

PPV-free status is immediately revoked if PPV is detected in a PFA, PFPP, or PFPS. In order for PPV-free status to be reinstated, the PPV infestation must be eradicated, and eradication must be confirmed by three consecutive years of negative survey results within the quarantine area. All international movement of PPV-susceptible planting material must originate from a certification program. Every source tree, rootstock, budwood and seed used in a certification program must be tested and found free of PPV every three years.

**Please read RSPM 18** for additional information on eradication of PPV and requirements for safe movement of PPV-susceptible planting material among NAPPO member countries.

Photo by Peggy Greb <https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/oc/graphics/photos/300dpi/kesa/d740-1.jpg>