Invasive Species – VDACS’ Work and Available Resources

David Gianino
Office of Plant Industry Services
OPIS – Mission

• Protect Virginia’s agricultural and horticultural economic interests

• Variety of laws and regulations that protect the environment

• Inspection, certification, survey, trapping, mitigation, prevention

• [https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services.shtml](https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services.shtml)
OPIS – Laws

• Regulatory agency, ensuring compliance with plant protection laws and regulations
  • Virginia Plant and Plant Products Inspection Law
  • Virginia Tree and Crop Pest Law
  • Virginia Bee Law
  • Virginia Endangered Species Act
  • Virginia Noxious Weeds Law

• Authority for invasive species work specific to species listed by laws and associated regulations

• Other agencies may also have oversight over specific invasive species
  • Department of Wildlife Resources (aquatic invasive species)
  • Department of Conservation and Recreation (invasive plants list)
OPIS - Regulations

- Regulations include quarantines for specific insect or disease plant pests
  - Spongy Moth (formerly known as gypsy moth)
  - Cotton Boll Weevil
  - Imported Fire Ant
  - Spotted Lanternfly
  - Thousand Cankers Disease

- Serve to prevent the entry of plant pests and to slow the spread of pests to uninfested parts of the Commonwealth
Outreach and Communications

• Variety of outreach tools
  • Press releases, social media, website

• Attend meetings to present information and provide plant pest ID
  • Printed pamphlets
  • BMP’s
  • Training

• Virginia Tech and Cooperative Extension; other state agencies
Noxious Weeds Species

• Tiered list of species

• Those species defined by the Noxious Weed Law
  • *Not all invasive plants are noxious*

• Mitigation, control, eradication, suppression, prohibition from sale/movement

2VAC5-517-20. Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 noxious weeds.
A. The following plants are hereby declared Tier 1 noxious weeds:
   1. Salvinia molesta, Giant salvinia.
   2. Solanum viarum, Tropical soda apple.
   3. Heracleum mantegazzianum, Giant hogweed.
B. The following plants are hereby declared Tier 2 noxious weeds:
   1. Imperata cylindrica, Cogon grass.
   2. Lythrum salicaria, Purple loosestrife.
   3. Ipomoea aquatica, Water spinach.
   4. Vitex rotundifolia, Beach vitex.
   5. Oplismenus hirtellus spp. undulatifolius, Wavyleaf basketgrass.
C. The following plants are hereby declared Tier 3 noxious weeds:
   1. Ailanthus altissima, Tree of heaven.
   2. Ampelopsis brevipedunculata, Porcelain berry.
   3. Celastrus orbiculatus, Oriental bittersweet.
   4. Hydrilla verticillata, Hydrilla.
   5. Persicaria perfoliata, Mile-a-minute weed.
Visual Surveys in Virginia Nurseries

• Nurseries producing nursery stock are required to be inspected
• Scouting for plant pests
• Stop sale or mitigation requirements if damaging, invasive plant pests are found
• Domestic agricultural pest detection system using surveys

• Early detection

• National priority pests (insects/diseases)

• Funding for staff through USDA-APHIS

• Purchase survey supplies directly
Plant Protection Act – Section 7721

• Provides federal grant funds for work in six categories, or goals
  • Survey and Analysis
  • Domestic Inspection
  • Increase ID Capacity and Strengthen Pest Detection Tech
  • Safeguard Nursery Production
  • Outreach and Education
  • Enhance Mitigation and Rapid Response

• Every year, OPIS submits proposals for grant dollars to the USDA-APHIS-PPQ
  • Summer/Fall deadline for submission

• Website: USDA APHIS | Plant Protection Act Section 7721 Funding
Virginia’s 2022 awarded PPA 7721 surveys

• OPIS was awarded funding for three proposals

• Surveying for
  • *Phytophthora ramorum*
  • Forest Pests
  • Grape Commodity Pests

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<th>Goal</th>
<th>Project #</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Cooperator Type</th>
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**TOTAL** $167,184
PPA 7721 – 2022-23 Spending Plan

- USDA-APHIS-PPQ announces the award of their PPA spending plan early in the year (Feb/March)

- Proposals are reviewed by State Plant Regulatory Officials (states) and USDA

- Tribal Nations will receive ~$650,000 throughout the U.S.

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Resources Available for Tribal Nations

• VDACS
  • Inspection staff demonstrate survey work
  • OPIS CAPS Coordinator – understanding agricultural pests and funding
  • VA State Plant Regulatory Official – Developing, submitting and supporting a proposal

• USDA-APHIS
  • Invasive Species Coordinator – phillip.c.andreozzi@usda.gov
  • PPA 7721 funding – Program Manager - van.n.pichler@usda.gov
  • PPQ Tribal Liaison – Carl.Etsitty@usda.gov
Thank you

• Questions or Comments

• David Gianino – david.gianino@vdacs.virginia.gov or (804) 786-3515
  • State Plant Regulatory Official

• Tina MacIntyre – tina.macintyre@vdacs.virginia.gov or (804) 786-3515
  • CAPS Coordinator