

## Tools and Equipment

Following is a list of tools and equipment needed to inspect plants being grown under postentry quarantine:

- ◆ Copies of PPQ Form 391, “Specimens for Determination”
- ◆ Copies or originals of all forms specific to the PEQ inspection
- ◆ State Quarantine Tags, Quarantine Tape, or similar marking equipment for detaining infected PEQ material
- ◆ One hand lens
- ◆ Three or four plastic, heavy-specific to the PEQ inspection duty trash bags for infected PEQ material disposal
- ◆ Three or four resealable plastic bags (sandwich to 1-gallon size) for bud wood and large disease sample mailing to identifiers
- ◆ One or two shoulder-type vials (containing 3% formaldehyde)—for nematodes
- ◆ Three or four shoulder-type vials (containing 70% alcohol)—for insects
- ◆ One pair of pruning shears
- ◆ Three or four shoulder-type vials (empty)—for dry specimen retention
- ◆ One pocket knife or similar cutting device
- ◆ Three or four small envelopes for shipping infected PEQ specimens to identifiers
- ◆ *PEQ Manual*
- ◆ Two or three paper towel sheets or similar blotter paper—for possible fungal diseases

Make arrangements with the importer if large quantities of plant material need to be destroyed.

## Cautions and Warnings

### Personal Warnings

Inspectors should always be cautious en route to and during PEQ inspections, but probably no more so than during any other work assignment.

Experienced inspectors know to look for guard dogs, pesticide residues on plants, low-hanging steam pipes, unguarded fans, and dangerous footing. But even experienced inspectors can have accidents. Therefore, take every precaution to minimize accidents, injury, and damage to self, property, and others.

**Inspectional Warnings** Genera listed in 319.37-7(b) may be unfamiliar to you. You may wish to do a computer search for pictures. Your importer’s confidence in your abilities is increased if you can identify the plant(s) you are to inspect. You may not recognize many of the plant diseases that are PEQ significant. They either do not occur in the United States, are of limited distribution, or have symptoms that are similar to endemic diseases. Inspection is based on disease signs and symptoms and it is important to recognize them. Use the descriptions and the PEQ Circulars in the [List of Circulars](#) on page 7-1, to assist you during your inspections.

If you cannot identify what is causing a symptom on a PEQ plant, take a sample to your local specialist for identification. If this person **cannot** identify the specimen or suspects the disease is one of those listed as quarantine significant, forward the specimen to the PEQ Coordinator at:

Gregg Goodman  
National Coordinator, Postentry Quarantine Program  
Plant Safeguarding and Pest Identification  
USDA, APHIS, PPQ, PHP  
4700 River Rd., 4D-04.8 Unit 52  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737  
Tel: 301 851-2074  
Fax: 301 734-5269

Symptoms caused by fungi, bacteria, and nematodes include wilting, blotching, spotting, chlorosis, mottling, curling, cankers, gall, and die-back. Carefully inspect the host material for spores or fruiting bodies.

Symptoms of viral diseases include mottle, vein clearing, leaf curling, chlorosis, necrotic lesions, distortions, shortening of the internodes, stunting, enations, and color breaking in the bloom. Accurate field identifications are difficult because diagnosis is based on symptoms. Generally, there are no signs (such as fruiting bodies of fungal pathogens) produced by diseases caused by viruses. And, symptoms can be confused with those caused by drought, poor drainage, malnutrition, or injury from spray materials. When virus diseases are found, examine any domestic plants of the same genus growing nearby for similar symptoms. Such comparisons will help determine if the suspected virus was introduced. Refer plant diseases that are **not** positively recognized as native or already established, or cannot be completely explained by environmental factors, insect injury, or nutritional troubles to the PEQU, Beltsville, Maryland. Pack specimens carefully before shipping to identifiers (*see Pest Identification Procedures* on page 4-7). Sent specimens must be characteristic of symptoms and variations observed on the PEQ plants and described in the *List of Circulars* on page 7-1. In most cases, the quarantine period for PEQ material is 2 years (or two growing seasons). Exceptions do occur. Therefore, refer to *PPQ 546 Agreement for Postentry Quarantine—State Screening Notice (7 CFR 319.37)*

on page F-10 for specific information with the host or occurs locally.

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### **Special Note Regarding PIS Inspections**

It is important to understand that intercepted plant pests are taxonomically identified to the lowest possible taxon (usually to the species level). However, PPQ acts only on those pests that are or are suspected of being quarantine significant. Nonquarantine plant pests are generally allowed entry due to PPQ's lack of authority to treat these pests. Importers who receive PEQ materials infested with non-quarantine significant plant pests may complain about this policy. PPQ management is not indifferent to importer concerns and is reviewing this loophole. Changes are being considered to require treatments for potential viral vectors such as aphids, whiteflies, or leafhoppers at the PIS. Until this review process is complete, please understand that PPQ will only take action on those pests that are, by Federal law, quarantine significant.