

## Identification / Diagnostic Issues

As was mentioned on the [September 5, 2019](#) NCC Call and included in the notes (p. 2), the PDMT is struggling with the coordination of preliminary identification, which is the screening and identification of raw samples from CAPS, Pest Detection, and Goal 1 Surveys. We currently do not have sufficient staff to coordinate where states should send samples. In the meantime, and with the current limited resources, the PDMT cannot continue to coordinate requests for taxonomic assistance with the appropriate identifier or cooperating institution.

For 2020 CAPS and PPA Goal 1 Survey, if you used an identifier/institution previously, we ask that you please reach out to the identifier/institution and confirm that they will be able to support you in the 2020 season. You can send the information from your Survey Summary Form:

- Target(s)
- Type of samples: raw or screened samples
- Expected number of samples
- Point of contact name and email of who will be submitting samples

Identifiers and Identification Centers are communicating their current operational situation with their regular customers. If you have not used an identifier or identification center previously, please make double sure that they will be available and will be able to handle potential samples.

You can find contact information for PPQ Domestic Identifiers here: [Domestic Identifiers](#). If you need assistance, as a final resort, in finding an identifier or institution for a target (Priority Pests only) you may reach out to Lisa Jackson ([lisa.d.jackson@usda.gov](mailto:lisa.d.jackson@usda.gov)) for arthropods or mollusks and Heather Moylett ([heather.moylett@usda.gov](mailto:heather.moylett@usda.gov)) for pathogens and nematodes.

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## National Identification Services (NIS)

NIS provides confirmatory identification. It does not do preliminary identification, except for the pathogens specified below. NIS confirms suspect samples that have a preliminary identification. Jesse Hardin presented an overview of the work NIS conducts in [NIS Confirmatory ID](#).

The process to request confirmatory identification has been posted on the APHIS website at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/request-official-confirmation-preliminary-pest-id>

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## National Mycology Specialists - Limited Pathogen Screening

PPQ has limited capacity to screen select pathogen samples. Do not send unprocessed or bulk samples to PPQ for pathogen screening. Only send samples for screening to PPQ under the following circumstances (slides 38-42 in [CAPS Science Support](#)):

The PPQ National Mycology Specialists can screen samples for these targets:

- *Cronartium flaccidum*, Scots pine blister rust
- *Hemileia vastatrix*, coffee leaf rust
- *Pseudopezicula tracheiphila*, rotbrenner
- *Synchytrium endobioticum*, potato wart\*
- *Ceratocystis manginecans*, mango sudden decline\*\*
- *Raffaelea quercivora*, Japanese oak wilt\*\*

To request support, email the PPQ National Mycology Specialists ([PPQNISNTMycology@usda.gov](mailto:PPQNISNTMycology@usda.gov)) and include this information from your Survey Summary Form:

- Target(s)
- Type of samples: raw or screened samples
- Expected number of samples
- Point of contact name and email of who will be submitting samples

Prior to sending samples, notify the PPQ National Mycology Specialists ([PPQNISNTMycology@usda.gov](mailto:PPQNISNTMycology@usda.gov)) by email and copy Steve Bullington, PPQ Domestic Diagnostics Coordinator ([PPQ.Domestic.Diagnostic.Coordinator@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:PPQ.Domestic.Diagnostic.Coordinator@aphis.usda.gov)). In the email, include an explanation of what you are sending, a PDF file of your completed PPQ Form 391, and the tracking number.

\* *Synchytrium endobioticum* is a select agent. See the S&T Beltsville section for select agent guidance. Include the PPQ National Mycology Specialists ([PPQNISNTMycology@usda.gov](mailto:PPQNISNTMycology@usda.gov)) in your email.

\*\*If you have non-PPQ taxonomic assistance in place for *Ceratocystis manginecans* and *Raffaelea quercivora* surveys, it is still important to contact the PPQ National Mycology Specialists prior to the start of the survey season. Both require isolation prior to screening, and NIS can provide guidance on how to sample and isolate these fungi in addition to discussing the laboratory requirements for successful isolation.

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## PPQ Domestic Identifier – Plant Pathogens

The PPQ Domestic Identifier for plant pathogens can screen samples for these targets:

- *Globodera pallida*, Pale cyst nematode
- *Globodera rostochiensis*, Golden nematode
- *Potyvirus Plum Pox Virus*, Plum pox virus (PPV)

To request support, email Craig Webb, PPQ Domestic Identifier for plant pathogens ([craig.a.webb@usda.gov](mailto:craig.a.webb@usda.gov)) and include this information from your Survey Summary Form:

- Target(s)
- Type of samples: raw or screened samples
- Expected number of samples
- Point of contact name and email of who will be submitting samples

Prior to sending samples, notify Craig Webb by email and copy Steve Bullington. In the email, include an explanation of what you are sending, a PDF file of your completed PPQ Form 391, and the tracking number.

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### **S&T Beltsville Lab**

Only send samples for confirmatory diagnostics. Do not send samples for screening.

Select agents are the only exception. Prior to sending samples, contact Phillip Lake ([phillip.c.lake@usda.gov](mailto:phillip.c.lake@usda.gov)) and Kurt Zeller ([kurt.a.zeller@usda.gov](mailto:kurt.a.zeller@usda.gov)), and copy the S&T Beltsville lab ([PPQ\\_CPHST\\_Beltsville\\_Sample\\_Diagnostics@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:PPQ_CPHST_Beltsville_Sample_Diagnostics@aphis.usda.gov)) and Steve Bullington, PPQ Domestic Diagnostics Coordinator ([PPQ.Domestic.Diagnostic.Coordinator@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:PPQ.Domestic.Diagnostic.Coordinator@aphis.usda.gov)). They will provide you with the necessary forms and sample submission instructions.

Select agents on the CAPS Priority Pest List:

- *Peronosclerospora philippinensis*, Philippine downy mildew
- *Ralstonia solanacearum*, bacterial wilt
- *Synchytrium endobioticum*, potato wart
- *Xanthomonas oryzae* (includes pvs. *oryzae* and *oryzicola*), bacterial blight and bacterial leaf streak