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Date:

To:

Ozonium Root Rot Certification Applicant:

Ozonium Root Rot (ORR) is a soil-borne disease caused by *Phymatotrichum omnivorum*. This fungal disease can infect over 2000 plant species. The entire County of Imperial is under quarantine for Ozonium Root Rot. The California State Interior Quarantine CCR 3401 restricts the movement of plants from our county into other counties within California unless the shipment of plants is certified by our office as free from ORR. There are also some states that restrict the movement of plants from California into their state unless the shipment of plants is certified. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has approved two protocols for certifying plants free from ORR. The first protocol, Protocol A: Field Grown Plants or Nursery Stock in contact with native soil; is (approximately) a two year process and requires 3 inspections per year of the approved indicator plants. Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), is the only indicator plant approved by CDFA. The second protocol, Protocol B: Greenhouse grown plants without contact with native soil (or plants grown in containers without contact with native soil); consists of one initial inspection and can be done upon request provided certain requirements can be met. Please find attached Protocol to Certify Plants Free from Ozonium Root Rot, approved by CDFA, for more detailed information.

Applicants wishing to apply for ORR certification must fully complete the attached application and return it to the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. The application must include a detailed map (including the nearest cross streets) of the area to be certified. Applicants wishing to apply for Protocol A must submit application sufficiently early enough to allow inspections to be conducted during the summer months (June-September). This is because the disease is most visible during the warmest part of the year, and the alfalfa is ONLY inspected June through September at approximately one month intervals. Failure to submit the application early enough to allow for this inspection format will cause a one year delay in the certification of the growing grounds.

All applications will be evaluated and notice of acceptance will be given to the responsible parties. If disapproved, justification will be provided in writing. If approved, inspections for certification for Protocol A will commence from June through September of each year. Inspections may occur at other times of the year, as deemed necessary by the Commissioner.

Our current program fees for Ozonium Root Rot Certification are under review. For more information regarding fees please contact our office.

If *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* is detected during the inspection period, the responsible party will be notified and any remaining inspections will be cancelled. The responsible party will be billed only for inspections performed. If all inspections and laboratory determinations are negative for *Phymatotrichum omnivorum*, the applicant will be notified in writing once the balance for all program fees and inspections are paid in full.

In order to move plant material to other counties or states with restrictions, your plant material may need to be accompanied by a State Phytosanitary Certificate. A Phytosanitary State Certificate may be requested 24 hours prior to movement of certified articles. The current fee for Phytosanitary State Certificate for plants is \$55.30. Certificates may be requested by phone, e-mail, fax, or in person at our office during regular business hours.

Follow up inspections will be conducted every year to verify certified property remains free from ORR and/or follows and maintains practices that prevent introduction of ORR infected soil or infected plant material. Certification under Protocol A requires an annual inspection. Certification under Protocol B requires two inspections per year; these inspections will also incur program fees.

Please note: At any time, a positive laboratory determination of *Phymatotrichum omnivorum* in the commodity or property certified, may result in the revocation of certification and a refusal to issue certificates to any location enforcing the ORR quarantine. The circumstances surrounding such a determination will be reviewed by the Commissioner, on a case-by-case basis.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions. Our office number is 442-265-1500.

Sincerely,

Laura Arellano
Plant Pathologist/Entomologist
Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's Office