

FOR INFORMATION

DA-2007-39

September 17, 2007

SUBJECT: Detections of Panicle Rice Mite, *Steneotarsonemus spinki*, in Ithaca, New York

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On September 14, 2007, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of panicle rice mite (PRM), *Steneotarsonemus spinki*, at a rice research facility in Ithaca, New York. This facility, which is used as an experimental research station, is operated by an educational institution. PRM detections occurred within a greenhouse at this research facility.

This outbreak is considered to be transient, actionable, and under surveillance. APHIS has notified the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets of this confirmed detection. In addition, APHIS' PRM technical working group, which was established in response to the PRM detection in Texas, is considering survey and control strategies in response to this latest detection.

PRM is considered a serious rice pest in China, Philippines, and Taiwan, where it has caused substantial crop losses. Yield losses can range from 30 to 90 percent. APHIS has also confirmed PRM detections at rice research facilities in Texas (July 13), Puerto Rico (August 1), Louisiana (August 20), and Arkansas (September 7) this year. There are two main reported hosts of RPM, rice, *Oryza sativa*, and the weedy red rice, *Oryza latifolia*.

For additional details on the Federal response to the detection of PRM, you may contact Eastern Regional Program Manager John Stewart at (919) 855-7333 or National PRM Coordinator Valerie DeFeo at (301) 734-4387.

**/s/ John H. Payne for**

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