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Canada

Agricultural Situation

Plant Health Measures to Limit Spread of Swede

Midge

2002

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Report Highlights: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is implementing a control program to limit the spread of swede midge, an insect pest of Brassica plants such as broccoli and cauliflower, cabbage, and canola and which was found in nine counties in Ontario and one municipality in Québec. The CFIA is holding discussions with USDA officials to discuss the risk posed by swede midge, prevent its spread and minimize the impact on trade.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Ottawa [CA1], CA

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is implementing a control program to limit the spread of swede midge (*Contarinia nasturtii*), a small fly that attacks Brassica crops such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and canola. Swede midge is an exotic pest, and it was found in nine counties in Ontario and one municipality in Québec in 2001. Swede midge is known to be widespread in Europe, but it has not previously been reported in North America. U.S. and Canadian plant health officials are meeting in Washington this week to discuss the risk posed by swede midge, prevent its spread and minimize the impact on trade.

The CFIA Press Release follows:

CONTROL MEASURES TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF SWEDE MIDGE

OTTAWA, May 29, 2002 - The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is implementing a control program to limit the spread of swede midge (*Contarinia nasturtii*), a small fly that attacks Brassica crops such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and canola. Swede midge is an exotic pest (not native to Canada), and it was found in nine counties in Ontario and one municipality in Québec in 2001. It has not been found in any other provinces.

The CFIA has recently completed a Pest Risk Assessment on swede midge and determined that it is a pest of quarantine significance. This means that swede midge has a high potential to spread further within Canada, cause significant damage to crops and cause economic losses to producers.

Broccoli and cauliflower crops damaged by swede midge are usually not marketable, and other affected crops are reduced in value. However, there is no threat to human health from this pest.

The control measures being implemented by the CFIA include: a quarantine on the areas in Ontario and Québec that are known to be infested; restrictions on the movement of Brassica plants out of the quarantine areas; surveys in Ontario and Québec to determine whether swede midge has spread and if so, how far; and surveys of other areas in Canada to determine if swede midge is present. These measures will prevent the spread of swede midge and protect susceptible species in other parts of Canada. The phytosanitary requirements are outlined in Plant Protection Policy Directive D-02-06, Interim Phytosanitary Requirements to Prevent the Entry and Spread of Swede Midge (*Contarinia Nasturtii*).

The origin of the outbreak of swede midge is unknown. Swede midge is known to be widespread in Europe, but it has not previously been reported in North America.

The CFIA is holding discussions with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials to develop an approach that will address the risk posed by swede midge, prevent its spread and minimize the impact on trade.

The total value of Brassica vegetable crops produced in Canada is approximately \$120 million annually. The total value of canola production in Canada is about \$2.2 billion annually.

Additional information on swede midge, and Policy Directive D-02-06, can be found on the CFIA web site at www.inspection.gc.ca

End of Press Release

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