



8 April 2016

## **Biosecurity Advice 2016/10**

### **Draft pest risk analysis for *Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus* (CGMMV)**

This Biosecurity Advice (BA) invites stakeholders to provide comments on the 'Draft pest risk analysis for *Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus* (CGMMV)' by 9 May 2016.

#### **Background**

In September 2014, *Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus* (CGMMV) was confirmed to occur in commercial watermelon farms near Katherine and Darwin in the Northern Territory. As a result, CGMMV was declared a quarantine pathogen; and delimiting surveys were initiated in the Northern Territory in growing areas for species in the Cucurbitaceae family (cucurbits). Additionally, CGMMV was later reported on a single property near Charters Towers in Queensland in April 2015, and the property remains under quarantine.

In October 2014, the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources introduced emergency measures to mitigate the risk of further introduction of CGMMV into Australia. These measures were amended in December 2015 to update the host list for CGMMV in response to the detection of this virus in the seeds of additional host species. The current emergency measures cover the seeds for sowing pathway of the following seed-borne CGMMV hosts: *Citrullus lanatus* (watermelon), *Cucumis melo* (cantaloupe; melon), *Cucumis sativus* (cucumber), *Cucurbita maxima* (pumpkin, squash), *Cucurbita moschata* (pumpkin), *Cucurbita pepo* (pumpkin; squash; zucchini), *Lagenaria siceraria* (bottle gourd) and *Trichosanthes cucumerina* (serpent gourd; snake gourd) and any hybrid of these species.

Although the Northern Territory government formally revoked the CGMMV quarantine zone in February 2016, the risk management measures have been implemented to contain the further introduction of this virus to other parts of Australia. CGMMV is under official control in Australia and consequently remains a quarantine pathogen.

The completion and release of this pest risk analysis (PRA) meets Australia's international obligations to review the emergency phytosanitary measures introduced on CGMMV host seeds for sowing. This PRA report proposes that the emergency risk management measures currently in place are adequate to mitigate the risk posed by this virus and should become the standard risk management measures for CGMMV host cucurbit seeds. The only proposed change to the emergency measures is to provide the option for small seed lots to be tested off-shore, whereas previously, small seed lots could be tested on-shore only.

#### **Proposed Measures**

##### Commercial seed lots (off-shore or on-shore)

- Testing—mandatory testing by ELISA using a sample size of 9,400 seeds following the

protocol of the ISTA 7-026. Consignments tested off-shore must be accompanied by an official government Phytosanitary Certificate endorsed with an additional declaration that the mandatory testing has been conducted in accordance with Australia's requirements.

- On-arrival inspection—to verify freedom from live insects, soil, disease symptoms, prohibited seeds, other plant material, animal material and any other extraneous contamination of quarantine concern.

#### Small seed lots (off-shore or on-shore)

- Testing—mandatory testing by ELISA using a sample size of 20% of the seed lot weight or 9,400 seeds following the protocol of the ISTA 7-026. Consignments tested off-shore must be accompanied by an official government Phytosanitary Certificate endorsed with an additional declaration that the mandatory testing has been conducted in accordance with Australia's requirements.
- On-arrival inspection—to verify freedom from live insects, soil, disease symptoms, prohibited seeds, other plant material, animal material and any other extraneous contamination of quarantine concern.

The draft report and information about the risk analysis process are available from the [department's website](#). Printed copies of the report are available, if required.

Comments on the draft report must be submitted by 9 May 2016.

**Lodging a submission:** There is no specific format for submissions, but they must be in writing, and identify the relevant technical biosecurity issues being raised with supporting evidence. Preferably, submissions should be in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats and lodged electronically via email, but postal submissions are acceptable. Submissions should be received by the department within the stated comment period and addressed to:

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