Packaging and Shipping Soybean Rust Moved Under USDA–APHIS–PPQ Permit

Introduction

Packages containing soybean rust travel through interstate commerce for research and diagnostic purposes. Mispackaged and damaged packages compromise phytosanitary security and may result in a shipper rejecting the package.

Since the establishment of soybean rust in the southeastern United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) removed the causal agent, *Phakopsora pachyrhizi*, from the Select Agent list. This change allows more researchers at various locations to diagnose and study this disease. However, it is a violation of Federal law to ship soybean rust to someone who does not have a permit authorizing receipt of interstate shipments.

Packaging

Movement of plant pests is discussed in detail under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 7, Part 330.200. In general, “pests must be shipped in sturdy, escape-proof containers.”

Shipment of infected leaves must meet specific requirements that will also keep the material viable. All infected plant material must be packed in 5 mil double plastic bags. These bags must be surrounded by enough absorbent material to contain their entire contents in case of breakage, and then be placed inside a sturdy, sealed, leak-proof metal or wood box or other material of equivalent strength. All microscope slides with viable specimens must be similarly packaged. Petri plates must be sealed with stretchable sealing films, such as Parafilm®, before being bagged and boxed. Placing nested plastic bags directly into a folded cardboard shipping box may not provide sufficient phytosanitary security and may result in packages being held by a shipper or being destroyed.

Shipment of collected spores is permitted in sealed tubes or vials. These tubes or vials must be placed inside a second sealed container, and then inside a sturdy, sealed, leak-proof metal or wood box or other material of equivalent strength for transport.

Nonviable materials include extracted DNA samples permanently encased inside plastic resins, and killed plant products (such as ethylene oxide treated plant matter or spores). Soybean rust in any of these forms does not need a permit to be shipped.

Shipping Directions

- A red-and-white shipping label (Plant Protection and Quarantine [PPQ] Form 599) is not issued for interstate shipments.
- Put a copy of the permit inside the package along with the permittee’s contact information. Doing that helps APHIS contact the correct party if the package is held by the shipper. Sometimes the presence of the permit in the package meets a required permit condition.
- Shipments permitted to be carried in vehicles must meet all packaging requirements. Any accidents during transport that compromise the security of shipment packaging must be immediately reported to USDA–APHIS along with a description of the efforts taken to contain the accidentally released materials.
- Include the account number for a preferred delivery service (FedEx, DHL, TNT, etc.) inside the package in case APHIS needs to return the parcel to the permittee. APHIS does not pay shipping.
- Consider sending clean, not previously used, packaging materials to the supplier when providing the copy of the permit.

Penalty Statement: Under the Plant Protection Act of 2000, persons failing to comply with all permit conditions (this includes packaging and shipping) are subject to civil or criminal prosecution and penalties; all current permits may be cancelled and future permit applications denied.

Sources of Packaging

- Ordinary shipping materials are readily available from office supply stores and scientific supply catalogs.

For more information, please visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/permits on the Web or contact us by mail or fax at:

USDA–APHIS–PPQ
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Fax (301) 734–5392

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