



Plant Protection and Quarantine By the Numbers, Fiscal Year 2023



Budget

\$719,911,116

Annual appropriations (53.3%), Plant Protection Act Section 7721 (9.82%), Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection user fees (29.92%), export certification fees (2.34%), reimbursable overtime fees (1.90%), trust funds (2%), Commodity Credit Corporation emergency funds (0.73%)



Cooperator Funding

Provided nearly **\$197 million** to State departments of agriculture, universities, and other entities for pest surveys, research, and other critical work



Workforce

2,046 permanent employees, **294** term employees, **557** seasonal employees



Facilities

270 field offices, **7** laboratories, **16** plant inspection stations, **3** training facilities



Around the World

We fought pests offshore before they could reach the United States and helped U.S. agriculture thrive in the global marketplace.

Inspected and cleared **3.21 billion** pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables from **20** countries before they were shipped to the United States and oversaw a systems approach for the safe import of **2.96 billion** pounds of avocados in Mexico

Certified or recertified **200** treatment facilities, including **81** facilities in Mexico, **10** facilities in Central America, **3** facilities in the Caribbean, **112** facilities in South America, and **4** facilities in Asia

Worked with the U.S. Department of Defense to inspect **29,070** shipments of personal goods and **10 million** pieces of cargo from **18** countries before they returned stateside

Conducted technical negotiations to open, maintain, and expand export markets; and facilitated the release of held shipments—an added value of approximately **\$459.3** million

Helped expand the Global Electronic Phytosanitary (ePhyto) Solution, which makes the exchange of export certificates fast, efficient, and fraud-resistant; sent **310,000** ePhytos to **84** trading partners and received **330,000** ePhytos from **68** trading partners

Completed **200** risk analyses associated with imports, exports, invasive pest threats, and program requirements to support safe trade and protect American agriculture

Positioned more than **50** U.S. experts on international and regional expert and focus groups to advance key standard-setting and global initiatives on seeds, climate change, ePhyto, fruit flies, forestry, and other important topics

Processed **1.5 million** Lacey Act declarations, helping to combat illegal trade of protected plant species

Read more about the impact of PPQ's work: www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-health



At the Border

We kept potentially damaging plant pests out of the country.

Issued nearly **29,000** import permits and regulatory guidance letters for plants and plant products and responded to over **33,280** inquiries about imports and plant health permits

Cleared **27,235** shipments containing over **1.87 billion** plant units and **670,811** kilograms of seeds, intercepting **2,176** quarantine pests at plant inspection stations

Continued to implement risk-based sampling at Continued to implement risk-based

sampling at U.S. ports of entry to focus inspections on higher risk shipments, automating inspection rates for **3** high-volume maritime commodities: pineapples from Costa Rica and bananas and plantains from Ecuador

Expanded of the use of molecular diagnostic tools to **3** additional plant inspection stations at ports of entry for *Ralstonia solanacearum* race 3 biovar 2, a pathogen that cannot be detected visually, after rolling it out at 1 plant inspection station in 2022

Identified approximately **92,000** pests found during U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections of cargo, mail, and express carrier shipments and took quick action to prevent those of concern from entering the United States

Facilitated entry of regulated agricultural cargo through the monitoring of **15,310** fumigations, **40,161** cold treatments, **6,483** irradiation certifications, and **164** heat treatments of niger seed

Intercepted over **250,000** prohibited agricultural products and **2,000** quarantine pests during baggage inspections of approximately **15.9 million** passengers bound for the U.S. mainland from Hawaii and Puerto Rico

Conducted **100,087** inspections of agricultural commodities before they left Hawaii and Puerto Rico for the U.S. mainland; conducted **4,171** treatments to mitigate pest risks



Across the Nation

We fought back against the spread of invasive plant pests that threatened our Nation's crops and forests.

Removed nearly **64,000** acres from Karnal bunt-regulated areas on Tribal and non-Tribal lands in Arizona

Ended **1** Mexican fruit fly quarantine and **1** Oriental fruit fly quarantine and released **4,320** acres of agricultural production from quarantine restrictions in California

Worked with State and industry partners to reduce boll weevil captures by **54** percent in the Lower Rio Grande Valley; working with Mexican government partners to reduce boll weevil captures in Northern Tamaulipas

Conducted **222** plant pest surveys with cooperators in **50** States and **4** Territories and coordinated the response to approximately **45** pests detected in 2023 and prior years

Monitored grasshopper and Mormon cricket populations in Western States and treated **138,495** rangeland acres—which protected over **290,000** acres—to control outbreaks and protect valuable forage and at-risk agricultural production areas

Shipped **750,000** sterile navel orangeworm moths per day for release over production fields to protect tree nut crops

With our partners, released parasitoid wasps in **35** new counties to combat emerald ash borer, bringing the program's total number of releases to **453** counties in **32** States and the District of Columbia

Allocated more than **\$70 million** to support **374** projects under the Plant Protection Act's Section 7721 program as part of

a nationwide effort to strengthen the country's infrastructure for pest detection, surveillance, and mitigation, as well as protect the U.S. nursery system

Provided **\$7.75 million** to support **21** National Clean Plant Network projects in **14** States and Puerto Rico that diagnose, clean, and distribute disease-free stock of fruit trees, grapes, hops, berries, citrus, sweet potatoes, and roses to nurseries and growers

Provided a total of **\$9,897,671 million** for projects in California, Florida and Texas that help give citrus growers proven, science-based strategies to combat citrus greening

Issued more than **591,000** Federal phytosanitary (plant health) certificates directly or through authorized State and

county cooperators to aid the export of U.S. plants and plant products to approximately **200** trading partners

Cleared through our quarantine facility **532** normally prohibited high-risk cultivars and germplasm from more than **20** different plant genera, making safe new plant varieties available to U.S. importers and producers

Seized **294,779** pounds of prohibited agricultural items valued at over **\$1.1 million** through product recalls, from retail stores and internet sales, and during express courier package inspections, helping to protect U.S. crops and livestock from potentially devastating and costly plant pests and foreign animal diseases