2019 PHYTOPHTHORA RAMORUM TRACE FORWARD EVENT(S), A MIDWESTERN PERSPECTIVE

CONTINENTAL DIALOGUE ON NON-NATIVE FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES

CLEVELAND, OH

NOVEMBER 19 - 20

Scott Schirmer – Illinois Department of Agriculture, State Plant Regulatory Official
P. Ram trace – a brief recap

- First word – May 24, CPB call, basic back story and history from IN
- Memorial Day weekend – hands were tied, largest plant purchasing weekend of the year (reason to “panic”?)
- 1st trace list came 5/28, focus on Cat Nova Zembla variety, Firestorm and Holden mentioned
- Began IL TF effort on 5/29 – IDOA and USDA PPQ IL
- National calls on 5/29 and 5/31
- PPQ IL office generated map of sites
Initial Response

Trace spreadsheet

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Store</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Code</th>
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<td>MURPHY KING</td>
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Mapped receiving locations
First Efforts

- 20 Walmart and Rural King sites identified as receiving locations
- 527 plants, 3 cultivars specified
- IDOA (4-5 inspectors) and PPQ IL staffs began visiting sites looking for specified cultivars
- Many locations had a fraction of the listed plants still on site
- Most had been sold
- Rural King had gotten word early and already issued a corporate directive to destroy associated plants; many sites had no plants for inspectors to look at.
Next Bombshell(s)... 

- Complete shipping lists were provided.
- New receiving sites and new cultivars
- Added approx. 40 sites, 2519 plants, and 3 companies, in IL.
- All hands on deck (all 17 inspectors became involved)

(Cue the “MASTER SPREADSHEET”!!)

- Inspectors started to notice additional host plants (azalea, viburnum, lilac, etc.) were present from same broker, some being symptomatic, AND host plants from other sources had been comingled with potentially infected “original” material.

- Word started spreading about other hosts looking symptomatic and samples coming back ELISA positive from other states.

- SPHD and SPRO decided to look at all known hosts.
Site Visits; Methodology, Sampling, And Testing

- Focus on any remaining identified cultivars from identified source
- Looked at other hosts from same source
- Looked at hosts from other sources (guilty by proximity?)
- Symptomatic plants were sampled and placed on stop sale pending diagnostic results
- Many were immediately relinquished to inspectors on site (double-bagged and collected)
- Samples double-bagged and sent to U of I Plant Clinic for ELISA testing
- Positives sent to MSU for molecular testing
- Those pos were sent to KSU, pos sent to USDA for concurrence.
Results, and Moving Forward

- Between IDOA and PPQ IL, all sites were visited
- Limited “luck” on what we were actually able to get eyes on
- 13 Pos at 13 different sites
- 12 counties, but N to S, E to W
- Issued press release on 7/2 once we had enough resolution to determine we had statewide positives
- Urged residents to contact us/extension if they had purchased a plant from one of the locations and it was symptomatic
- Urged residents to not dispose of plants without guidance
- Only 3-4 credible calls, all follow-ups were negative
- Lack of responses/feedback was eerie and disheartening
- Drummed up a lot of calls about dead or dying oaks though (sudden, but not that sudden)
- Short fury, dwindled very quickly
Thank You

Questions or comments?