

**ROLE OF USDA, APHIS, AND PPQ IN PREVENTION, ERADICATION, AND  
MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE PLANT PESTS<sup>MAS</sup>**

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The United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine and the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection are the first line of defense in preventing the introduction of new Plant and Animal pests. Since 1 March 2003 some of PPQ's responsibility has been transferred to the DHS, CBP. PPQ is responsible for inspecting propagative plant products, identification of potential pests, issuing or denying permits to import products that could pose a risk to plant health in the United States, and responding to potential and new introductions through eradication, containment, and/or management of plant pests. PPQ also regulates the importation of biological control organisms utilized for control of non-indigenous plant/weeds.