

EPPO Pest Lists: purposes & procedures (last updated 2017/02)

Introduction

Since the 1970s, EPPO has maintained a List of A1 (absent from the EPPO region) and a List of A2 (present in the EPPO region but not widely distributed) pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests. The listing of a pest is based on technical justification and followed a meticulous approval procedure. The purpose of these lists is to recommend that organisms of serious phytosanitary concern should be regulated as quarantine pests by EPPO countries.

In addition, lists of Invasive Alien Plants were established in 2004 to draw the attention of EPPO member countries to plant species that pose a threat to plant health, environment and biodiversity in the EPPO region.

This document explains the purpose and maintenance procedures of the EPPO Pest Lists: the A1 and A2 lists of pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests, the Alert List and the Lists of Invasive Alien Plants.

A1 and A2 lists of pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests

Purpose

To support members in assuring plant health in their countries, EPPO maintains appropriate documentation for those pests which have been evaluated through the EPPO system and have been recommended for regulation. This list distinguishes pests which are absent (A1) from the EPPO region from those which are present (A2).

Addition of pests

The addition of pests to the A1 and A2 Lists is decided by the Executive Committee and Council.

The lists contain all the pests which have been evaluated through the EPPO system and were added to the A1/A2 lists in the past. For these pests, sufficient justification and documentation has been collected and is easily accessible for members. Since 2006, this implies that the pest had been through the EPPO PRA process (PRA performed by an Expert Working Group for PRA, review of the PRA record by the PRA core members, and of the PRA record and report by the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures or the Panel on Invasive Alien Plants, recommendation for regulation made by the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations to the Executive Committee and Council). In the past, the endangered area was not specified but this is now necessary with the new approach.

In addition to the system described above national PRAs or PRAs produced by other bodies than EPPO are also used as a basis for EPPO recommendations. In such a case, the PRAs are reviewed by the PRA core members and by the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures which make recommendations, when appropriate, to the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations. Should regulation be recommended, the pest will be placed on the A1 and A2 Lists of Pests Recommended for Regulation.

Deletion of pests

The deletion of pests from this list is decided by the Executive Committee and Council.

When new information concerning a pest is reviewed by the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures or the Panel on Invasive Alien Plants and leads to the conclusion that the phytosanitary risk has changed and management as a regulated pest is no longer justified, a recommendation should be made to the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations that the pest should be deleted from the list of pests recommended for regulation. This recommendation should be supported by the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations and approved by the Executive Committee and Council.

Alert List

Purpose

The main purpose of the Alert List is to draw the attention of EPPO member countries to certain pests possibly presenting a risk to them and achieve early warning. It can also be used by EPPO to select candidates which may be submitted to a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). In itself, the EPPO Alert List is not a quarantine list, and does not constitute a recommendation for phytosanitary regulations.

Inclusion of pests

The pests are selected by the EPPO Secretariat, mainly from the literature but also from suggestions of NPPOs of member countries. Their addition to the list is marked by an article in the EPPO Reporting Service. All pests on the Alert List are selected because they may present a phytosanitary risk for the EPPO region. The reasons for considering inclusion to the Alert List can be of various nature: e.g. pests which are new to science, new outbreaks recorded in the EPPO region or in other parts of the world, reports of rapid spread.

Information

Short paragraphs are included for each pest to explain why it was selected, to summarize its geographical distribution, main host plants, damage, pathways and to assess possible risks in the EPPO region. A list of sources from which information has been compiled is included and whenever possible, pictures are provided. The collected information is also transferred into the EPPO databases (PQR and EPPO Global Database).

Possible risks

It must be stressed that the section 'possible risks' is not the result of a PRA according to the EPPO Standards (PM 5) but is a preliminary attempt by the EPPO Secretariat to identify the main elements of risk. Some of the pests may later be selected by relevant EPPO Panels and submitted to a PRA. As a result, they may be added to the EPPO A1 and A2 Lists (lists of pests recommended for regulation as quarantine pests) or, if the PRA shows the risk to be low, removed from the Alert List.

Maintenance

- To achieve early warning, the EPPO Secretariat makes additions to the Alert List as soon as new potential phytosanitary problems are identified.
- The EPPO Secretariat, as appropriate, search for additional information on the pests of the Alert List and update the text accordingly.
- Since the Alert List resides on the EPPO website, constantly updated information can be provided. EPPO member countries can also interact and provide new data to be added.
- The Alert List, including the text on each pest, is reviewed critically every year by the Panel on Phytosanitary Measures, the Panel on Quarantine Pests for Forestry and the Panel on Invasive Alien Plants. This 'consolidated' version is also addressed to the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations for information.
- To keep the Alert List reasonably short, entries are not kept for more than 3 years, if no new information is found or if no particular action has been taken within the EPPO region.

Lists of invasive alien plants

EPPO, in the framework of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), is developing a cooperative Europe-wide strategy to protect the EPPO region against invasive alien plants. In 2002 the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants was created and was given the task to identify invasive alien plant species which may present a risk to the EPPO region, and to propose management options.

The number of plants that can be considered as potential pest species is very large and the Panel has elaborated a prioritization process for all known, or potential invasive alien plants in the EPPO region. During this process the Panel on Invasive Alien Plants is documenting invasive alien plant species on data sheets and when necessary, conducting Pest Risk Analyses (PRAs) following the EPPO Decision-support scheme for quarantine pests.,

As a result of these studies, the following lists of invasive alien plants have been established:

- The EPPO List of invasive alien plants

The plants in this list have been identified by the Panel on Invasive Alien Plants as being absent or present in the EPPO region; as having a high potential for spread; as posing an important threat to plant health and/or the environment and biodiversity; and eventually as having other detrimental social impacts in the EPPO region. Because a large number of invasive alien plants are already present in the EPPO region, priorities were set in order to select those species considered to pose the greatest threat to species and ecosystems in the EPPO region. EPPO therefore strongly recommends countries endangered by these species to take measures to prevent their introduction and spread, or to manage unwanted populations (for example with publicity, restrictions on sale and planting, and control measures). This List is constantly being reviewed by the Panel on Invasive Plants (new species can be added and others removed). The list is not meant to be exhaustive but to focus on the main risks.

- The EPPO Observation List of invasive alien plants

The EPPO Observation List was created by the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants in 2012. This list contains plant species (absent or present in the EPPO region) which present a medium risk or for which information currently available is not sufficient to make an accurate assessment. It is stressed that inclusion in the Observation List is not definitive, and changes can be made when additional information is recorded, particularly when information on invasiveness becomes available, or when a significant change in the invasive behaviour is observed.