

tends from field inspections of the mature crop, sampling, laboratory analysis, and proper labeling through certified seed tags.

All grain mills must be certified each year. Plant Industries personnel train, examine, and issue licenses in Delaware. All of the mills purchasing grain are required to hire licensed grain inspectors. All grain moisture testing devices must be registered with the Department. We inspect the mills and conduct quality assurance tests on a regular basis. We also help to resolve grain analysis disputes between the seller and the buyer of grains.

Seed Testing Program enforces the Seed Law, where official seed samples are taken from stores and brought to the laboratory for testing; and provides a seed testing service where samples are brought into the laboratory for analysis. Labels on seed packages are inspected at stores throughout the state. This program ensures that quality seed is offered to Delaware consumers.

Asian longhorned beetle



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Delaware Department of Agriculture

Plant Industries Section



Protecting Delaware's
Plant Resources



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What Does Plant Industries Section Do for Delaware?

It is our mission to protect and enhance the environment and plant resources of Delaware.

BACKGROUND

Plant Industries is the plant and plant pest regulatory enforcement authority in the State. Our mission is to protect agriculture, the environment and citizens from the damaging effects of plant and honeybee pests and noxious weeds while facilitating domestic and international trade of plants, plant products, grain, seed, and agricultural commodities. Some of the people and businesses served by Plant Industries in Delaware are farmers, beekeepers, nursery growers and dealers, fruit growers, university and industry researchers, grain elevator operators, stores that sell seed, consumers, exporters of Delaware agricultural products, people with gypsy moth problems, people moving houseplants out-of-state, and people wanting pest identification services.



Gypsy Moth Spray Program is one program available to landowners.

Programs & Services Provided for Landowners

Noxious Weeds law and regulations require control of the following four species of noxious weeds in Delaware: johnsongrass, Canada thistle, burcucumber, and giant ragweed. The program offers management assistance for these weeds to farmers, landowners, and homeowners. An equipment loan program is also available.

Gypsy Moth Suppression Program is a cooperative program between the USDA and DDA to help landowners manage the impacts caused by gypsy moth. Since this is a voluntary program, landowners must contact Plant Industries to request a fall egg mass survey to determine if treatment is necessary. Plant Industries surveys private and state lands.

Programs & Services Provided for Farmers & Businesses

Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program is conducted in cooperation with USDA and the Univ. of DE Cooperative Extension Service. We survey for exotic plant pests and other pests of export significance to help facilitate the export of Delaware agricultural products. The National Agricultural Pest Information System (NAPIS) database for Delaware is maintained by Plant Industries. Bio-control programs for invasive noxious weeds, such as purple loosestrife, are also being developed and implemented.



Nursery Inspection Unit inspects greenhouses for plant pests.

Plant Protection and Quarantine Unit deals with export certification of plants and plant products, issuing federal & state phytosanitary certificates, processing

permits for the interstate movement of plant pests, inspections of fields and facilities for agricultural biotechnology permits, post-entry quarantine inspections, processing permits for the interstate movement of soil, and enforcement of federal & state plant and pest quarantines.

Apiary Inspection Program requests that all honeybee colonies be registered and inspected for diseases, mites, and Africanized bees. Surveys are



conducted for Africanized bees along Delaware's coastal anchorages and in the Ports of Wilmington and Delaware City. The State Apiarist assists the beekeeping industry with promotion and education programs.

Nursery Inspection and Certification Program Unit inspects for insect and plant disease pests on nursery stock and Christmas trees. All nursery businesses must apply to Plant Industries for a Nursery Industry License. Certification and inspections are conducted to prevent the introduction of unwanted plant pests into Delaware and facilitate grower shipments of nursery stock to other states and countries.

Seed Certification Program is conducted for seed companies and local growers, assuring the use of higher quality seed for soybeans and small grains in Delaware. The certification process ex-