



## **News and Information for October 2018**

### **Detection of Bur Bristlegrass, a Q Rated Weed, at the Brawley Cattle Call Arena**

During the month of September, "bur bristlegrass" (*Setaria adhaerens*), a Q-rated weed pest, was detected in the rodeo contestant staging area of the Brawley Cattle Call Arena. A survey of the entire area resulted in the discovery and removal of 15 additional plants.

Bur bristlegrass is an annual grass that is not native to California. This grass is tufted in appearance and has spikelets with backward-barbed bristles that can affect livestock by causing blisters, lesions, and ulcerations in the mouth and on the tongue and lips. Q-rated pests are suspected to be of economic or environmental importance due to damage, but their status is uncertain because of incomplete identification or inadequate information. Surveys are often conducted to prevent infestation and spread.

### **Erwinia aphidicola- Leaf spot**

On September 2017, *Erwinia aphidicola* was detected in a melon field in Glen County. This was the first report in the US and it was confirmed by USDA. The detection occurred during a Phytosanitary field inspection of seed. During our 2018 Phytosanitary field inspection of seed in Imperial County, *Erwinia aphidicola* was detected in onion and watermelon seed fields. It was also detected in Santa Clara and Fresno Counties. Hosts include lettuce, alfalfa, melon and sunflowers.

In 2009, *E. aphidicola* was confirmed as a plant pathogen in Spain, causing disease in beans and peas. Studies report cucumber, tomato, pepper and melon as hosts. The symptoms in beans are chlorotic and necrotic leaf spots and generalized chlorosis, as well as necrosis in leaves and tendrils in peas. As the disease progresses, necrotic spots develop and completely affected leaves turn brown. Other symptoms observed in experimental trials are leaf necrosis, adventitious roots, brown coloration along the stem, interveinal chlorosis, curled, and blistered leaves. Symptoms will vary depending on the host. In Imperial County, the symptoms observed in onions were elongated bleached necrotic lesions on leaves. In watermelon, skin lesions and skin cracking were observed. This pathogen can be spread by infected plants, seed, soil and water.

### **Chlorpyrifos Update**

As reported last month, the Scientific Review Panel has designated chlorpyrifos as a Toxic Air Contaminant. The 45-day comment period is now open and will close on November 9, 2018. Comments may be submitted to [dpr18002@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:dpr18002@cdpr.ca.gov). In other news, the U.S. EPA has filed an appeal to the court order to ban chlorpyrifos. A timely reaction is not expected. Our office will continue to watch this issue closely and report significant regulatory changes or proposals to industry.

### **Licensing and Registration**

DPR recommends that those license holders (PCA, QAL, etc) with the last name beginning with A-L submit renewal packets by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Applications received after that time may not be processed by December 31<sup>st</sup>. This could result in the inability to register and work within the county until license renewal is complete.

Private Applicator Certificate (PAC) holders with the last name beginning A-H will also be expiring at the end of this year. CAC staff will be available to proctor PAC exams M-F at 9 AM and 1 PM and exams are given on a first come first serve basis. Please come sooner than later if you know you will need to take a PAC exam, as our office can be busy toward the end of the year. No restricted materials may be grower applied for a permit without a current certificate holder.