



NPAG Notice

New Pest Advisory Group (NPAG)

***Phelipanche aegyptiaca* (Pers.) Pomel (Syn. *Orobanche aegyptiaca* Pers.):
Egyptian broomrape**
Scrophulariales: Orobanchaceae

Date: January 9, 2015

Highlights:

- *Phelipanche aegyptiaca* (*Orobanche aegyptiaca*) is a parasitic weed that invades the roots of hosts and connects to the plant's vascular system to obtain water, minerals, and nutrients.
- Highly susceptible hosts are tomato, parsley, potato, tamira, carrot, watermelon, and muskmelon.
- Areas at risk include the Pacific Northwest, the southern United States, and dry tropical regions of the United States.
- Seeds are very small (0.2-0.4 mm) and are spread through soil, farm equipment, plants, and plant products.
- Long-distance dispersal occurs through movement of contaminated seed of other plants.
- Seeds can stay dormant in soil for up to a decade.
- Herbicides should be applied immediately after detection, and application should be repeated at 2-4 week intervals.
- Unmitigated yield losses in potato, tomato, carrot, and watermelon are significant and range from 5 to 100 percent, depending on host susceptibility, level of infestation, and environmental conditions.
- Control is difficult due to the large number of small seeds produced per plant, which are long lived and easily dispersed.
- The current status of the *P. aegyptiaca* in the United States is transient, actionable, and under eradication, and it is regulated as a Federal Noxious Weed under the *Orobanche* genus.

Need for new technology or knowledge:

- Identify the most effective trap crops.
- Determine optimal eradication methods.
- Develop PCR method to detect viable seeds in soil and seed lots.

Additional Information

- PPQ Operatives can access the full NPAG report at: <http://npag.cphst.org/index.cfm>
- Operatives outside of PPQ please send information requests to npag@aphis.usda.gov