

## Chinese Ya Pear Recall Update

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) personnel have proposed to meet with representatives from China in the near future to discuss a framework, research objectives and future actions relative to a supplemental risk assessment for Ya pears. The risk assessment specifically will address the new species *Alternaria* sp.nov. Roberts. Completion of this assessment will enable APHIS to make a risk management decision on the resumption of Ya pear imports into the United States.

APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) prohibited from entry and recalled all commercial shipments of Ya pears from China on December 19, 2003, due to several port of entry (POE) and marketplace finds of fruit infected with the fungus *Alternaria*.

USDA's Agricultural Resource Service Tree Fruit Research Laboratory in cooperation with PPQ's National Identification Services determined that the 2001-2003 detections of the previously undefined *Alternaria* that causes Ya pear fungal infections is a new pathogenic species that is not present in the United States.

Starting November 2, 2003 through December 19, 2003, PPQ intercepted this new species (temporarily nomenclatured *Alternaria* sp.nov. Roberts) 20 times, of which 7 were from imported maritime shipments and 13 from lots on market shelves. From December 19, 2003, through February 19, 2004, PPQ intercepted this pest an additional 78 times from pears intercepted at ports of entry and U.S. markets. Prior to December 19, 2003, infected Ya pears were intercepted in 7 western U.S. market locations. After December 19, 2004, finds had expanded to 11 market locations, nationwide. As of January 28, 2004, PPQ surveyed 4,182 market facilities (666 found to have actionable Ya Pears) and recalled 246, 061, 987 pounds of fruit from U.S. markets.

The Ya pear import prohibition and recall were enacted under the provisions of Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act of 2000 and under Article 5.7 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures. This agreement allows countries to invoke interim measures, in the absence of complete science, as long as the country is working to gather relevant scientific information.