



2012 Plum Pox Virus Survey Summary

Plum Pox Virus was detected for the first time in Pennsylvania in September of 1999. After ten years of intensive survey and control efforts, including collection and testing of over 2 million leaf samples and destruction of one-fifth of Pennsylvania's stone fruit orchards, Pennsylvania reached an incredible milestone: no virus was found for three consecutive years of survey, fulfilling the requirements necessary to declare eradication of plum pox virus from Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth celebrated the eradication milestone in October 2009, and then prepared for a strong but less intensive PPV monitoring and recovery program, slated to last for three additional years.

In 2012, the third year of the monitoring and recovery phase was completed. The joint PDA/USDA survey in the Commonwealth generated a total of 41,408 laboratory (ELISA) samples, with no PPV detections. **This is the sixth consecutive year of all negative PPV data for the Commonwealth. We have now completed all requirements for post-eradication monitoring in Pennsylvania.**

We began the third year of the monitoring and recovery phase in May 2012. A team of 12 temporary workers began the season on May 7; most left the program in August, while a small crew continued some work through October 19. Samples collected were primarily commercial orchard trees (37,177) and nursery-related plantings (4,230). The majority of the orchard samples were collected from 396 orchard blocks, primarily in Adams County, but some also from Cumberland, York, and Lancaster Counties. Nursery-related sampling did extend beyond these counties to include PA nursery operations in other counties and PA-nurseries operating in adjoining states. Pennsylvania also tested one peach fruit sample from another state; this was also negative.

In addition to running all samples in ELISA, a subset was tested using the more sensitive real time RT-PCR test. No positive samples were identified from the 83 samples tested using this protocol.

The 2012 survey season marked the sixth consecutive year of all negative survey data in the Commonwealth. As of October 29, 2009, all PPV quarantine restrictions for commercial orchards and residential properties within Pennsylvania were removed. As of January 21, 2013, all *nursery* quarantine restrictions have also been lifted, by order of the PA Secretary of Agriculture. All state-level indemnification programs specifically related to plum pox virus have also been cancelled, since they are no longer needed.

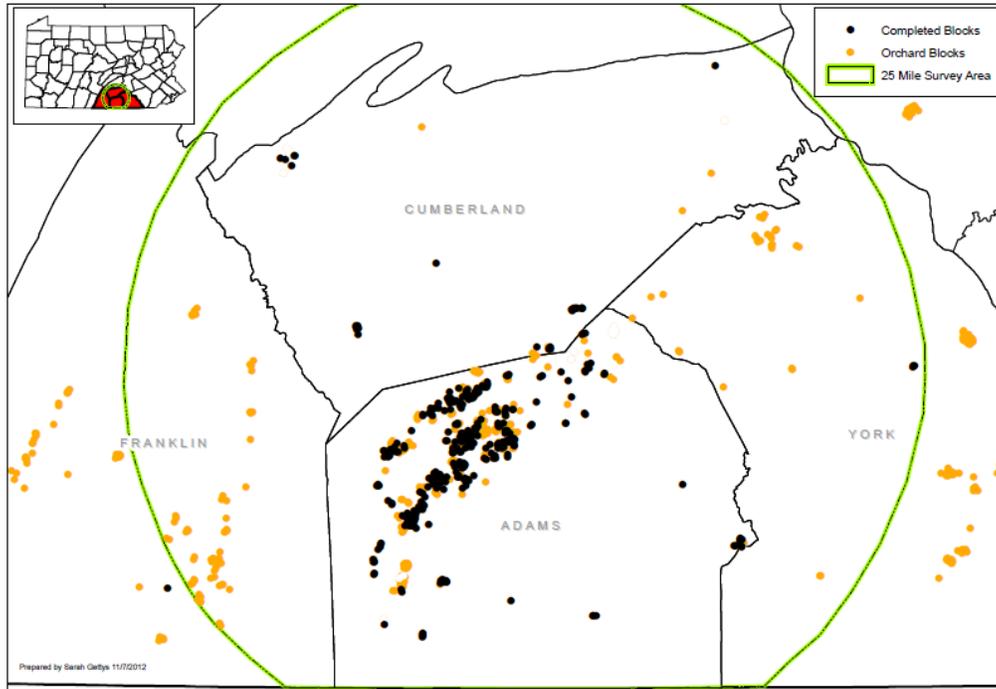
Total PA orchard acreage removed during the PPV eradication program stands at 1,675 acres, removed across a seven year span (2000-2006). Pennsylvania fruit growers remained helpful and cooperative throughout the many years of survey, despite the disruption it caused to their operations.

No positive PPV detections were made in the United States in 2012, although at least ten states were conducting surveys. As of January 2013, only one PPV quarantine exists in the United States -- in Niagara County, New York State. PPV still exists at higher levels in Ontario, Canada.

Formal orchard survey for PPV will NOT occur in the Commonwealth in 2013. Testing of nursery material will continue. Additional orchard monitoring may be proposed in future years, as part of ongoing early detection strategies for pests of concern to the United States and to the Commonwealth.

2012 Pennsylvania Plum Pox Survey

Survey Progress - Final



**Four-County Sample Numbers by Year
(Adams, Cumberland, Franklin, and York Counties)**

Year	Orchard Samples	Homeowner Samples	Other Samples	Total Samples	Total Positives	% Positive
2000	51,429	547	586	52,562	399	0.776
2001	80,012	5,556	1,326	86,894	27	0.034
2002	90,388	15,748	1,913	108,049	7	0.008
2003	155,970	36,530	6,845	199,345	11	0.006
2004	166,306	42,730	2,059	211,095	4	0.002
2005	213,005	51,158	3,280	267,443	5	0.002
2006	166,568	45,702	4,418	216,688	6	0.002
2007	173,180	44,295	2,689	220,164	0	0
2008	218,198	10,230	2,634	231,062	0	0
2009	204,251	10,843	264	215,358	0	0
2010	61,385	1,012	25	62,422	0	0
2011	57,375	0	1,101	58,476	0	0
2012	36,890	0	1,946	38,836	0	0