

## **LDAF GENERAL POLICY ORNAMENTAL SWEET POTATOES**

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) requires a tag, stamp, sticker or preprinted statement on each shipping container of sweet potatoes certifying they are free from the sweetpotato weevil (SPW), *Cylas formicarius elegantulus*, based on annual trapping surveys. This requirement applies to all sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) plants, plant parts, plant products (e.g., tubers), host material, and all other *Ipomoea* species, **including ornamentals**, that enter Louisiana from any state known to have an area infested with SPW.

1. Ornamental sweet potatoes entering Louisiana's sweetpotato weevil (SPW) free, 'green tag' areas must originate in an area certified by the state of origin as free from SPW and the shipment must be certified as SPW-free using the protocol below. Any ornamental sweet potatoes found in Louisiana's green tag areas that are not certified as SPW-free using the protocol below will be returned to origin or disposed of in a manner approved by the Commissioner of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.
2. Ornamental sweet potatoes currently propagated for sale in Louisiana's 'green tag' areas will be monitored under a periodic trapping program using SPW pheromone traps. This trapping activity primarily will involve nursery growers, although some nursery stock dealers who make cuttings for propagation and sale will also be trapped. Plants may be offered for sale following initial trapping; however, if any SPW are trapped, all ornamental sweet potatoes at that location will be quarantined and will be subject to treatment, disposal, and/or destruction.

In-state nursery growers and nursery stock dealers selling ornamental sweet potatoes will not be required to obtain a Louisiana Sweet Potato Dealer's Permit but must maintain their current LDAF Nursery Grower's Permit or their Nursery Stock Dealers Permit.

### CERTIFICATION PROTOCOLS

Trapping options acceptable to certify ornamental sweet potatoes as SPW-free:

- ❖ SPW pheromone-baited traps, placed at ground or canopy level depending on the site, for a three-day duration every three weeks during the growing period, or
- ❖ SPW pheromone-baited traps deployed during the warm part of the season, during active growth, for three continuous weeks.