

On the basis of items 12, 13 and 41 of Article 55 of the Law on Plant Protection (Official Gazette RS, No. 82/94) and Article 99 of the Law on Administration (Official Gazette RS, No. 67/94, 20/95), the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food issues the following

ORDER

ON MEASURES FOR PREVENTING SPREAD AND FOR ERADICATION OF POTATO WART DISEASE (*Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb.) Perc.) AND POTATO CYST NEMATODES (*Globodera rostochiensis* Woll. and *Globodera pallida* Stone)

Article 1

The measures of this order are for preventing spread and for eradication of Potato Wart Disease (*Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb.) Perc.) and Potato Cyst Nematodes (*Globodera rostochiensis* Woll. and *Globodera pallida* Stone).

Article 2

Potato Wart Disease is suspected when warty excrescences of different size and shapes appear on potato plants (except roots). The surface of excrescences is folded and rough (similar to cauliflower), but on the inside the excrescences are spongy and inclined to putrefaction and decay. The tubers are the parts most often infected and may be completely converted into spongy tissue. Potato Wart Disease does not hinder the growth of aerial parts of the plants.

Potato Cyst Nematodes are suspected when potato plants are stunted and grow slowly through being deprived of enough nutritive substances and moisture. In the early stages of contamination the stunted growth occurs only in localised areas of potato plots, often circular in shape. Leaves remain small, become yellow and later on brown, finally rolling and decaying. The tubers are small and poorly grown. In the second part of June, many spherical cysts of pin-head size appear on roots. They fall off at the end of June.

Article 3

A plot shall be regarded as being contaminated when symptoms have been found on at least one plant or tuber from that plot.

Article 4

Phytosanitary inspections of plots for potato production shall be monitored by phytosanitary inspectors and/or experts of authorised institutions according to a yearly programme of the ministry responsible for agriculture.

Despite the previous paragraph of this article, the owners of plots for potato production must inspect potato plants and notify the nearest agricultural institution with a plant protection service immediately upon detection of suspicious signs indicative of the appearance of Potato Wart Disease and/or Potato Cyst Nematodes. The plant protection service must thereupon notify the ministry responsible for agriculture.

Article 5

Where contamination by Potato Wart Disease or by Potato Cyst Nematodes is suspected, a phytosanitary inspector or an expert of an authorized organisation shall take plant and/or soil samples for determinations and send them for laboratory examination to the Agricultural Institute of Slovenia or other laboratory authorized by the ministry responsible for agriculture.

Contamination by Potato Wart Disease and Potato Cyst Nematodes shall be determined by methods recommended by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization or the European Union or, if such methods do not exist, other appropriate internationally recognized methods.

Article 6

When an occurrence of Potato Wart Disease is recorded, a phytosanitary inspector shall take the following measures:

1. Demarcation of the contaminated plot and definition of a safety zone large enough to ensure the protection of surrounding areas.
2. The method and place of destruction for potato tubers and haulms that came from contaminated plots shall be as prescribed.
3. Require destruction of the whole batch in which the contaminated tubers or haulms have been found if it is no longer possible to determine the place from which contaminated tubers and haulms came, as prescribed.
4. Prohibit the growing of potatoes on contaminated plots.
5. Prohibit the growing or storing (in the ground or otherwise) on contaminated plots, plants intended for transplanting.
6. Permit growing of potatoes other than seed potatoes in the safety zone, provided that they are of a variety that is resistant to the races of *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb.) Perc. found on the contaminated plot of the safety zone.

Article 7

When an occurrence of Potato Cyst Nematodes is recorded, a phytosanitary inspector shall take the following measures:

1. Demarcation of the contaminated plot and definition of a safety zone large enough to ensure the protection of surrounding areas.
2. The method and place of destruction for potato tubers and haulms that came from contaminated plots shall be as prescribed.
3. Specify the treatment for potatoes, other than seed potatoes, which came from contaminated plots, in a such way that tubers are free from soil.

4. Prohibit the use of potatoes that came from contaminated plots as seed potatoes.
5. Prohibit the growing of potatoes on contaminated plots.
6. Prohibit the growing or storing (in the ground or otherwise) on contaminated plots, plants intended for transplanting.
7. Permit growing of potatoes other than seed potatoes in the safety zone, provided one of the following requirements is met:
 - that only varieties of potato which are resistant to pathotypes of *Globodera rostochiensis* (Woll.) and *Globodera pallida* (Stone) found on the plots of this zone are grown.
 - that the potatoes will be harvested before the cysts of Potato Cyst Nematodes mature.

Article 8

Seed potatoes may be produced only on plots which, on official investigation, have been recognized as uncontaminated by Potato Cyst Nematodes, as prescribed.

Article 9

Each year the Ministry responsible for agriculture shall publish the following lists in the Official Gazette:

- a list of all the varieties of potato accepted for marketing which have been found, by official investigation, to be resistant to Potato Wart Disease. The races to which the varieties are resistant shall be stated.
- a list of all the varieties of potato accepted for marketing which have been found, by official investigation, to be resistant to Potato Cyst Nematodes. The races to which the varieties are resistant shall be stated.

The resistance of potato varieties to Potato Wart Disease or to Potato Cyst Nematodes shall be determined by methods recommended by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization or the European Union or, if such methods do not exist, other appropriate internationally recognized methods. A potato variety is regarded as being resistant to a particular race of Potato Wart Disease when it reacts to infection by the pathogenic agent of that race in a such way that there is no danger of secondary infection. A potato variety is regarded as being resistant to a particular race of Potato Cyst Nematodes if, when that variety is grown, a natural and annual decrease in the population of that race is found to occur.

The results of tests for resistance to Potato Wart Disease or Potato Cyst Nematode made in other countries may be valid provided they conform to the requirements in the previous paragraph.

Article 10

Holding of Potato Cyst Nematodes and cultures of Potato Wart Disease is prohibited.

Article 11

The ministry responsible for agriculture may, by special permit for scientific and research institutions, authorise derogations from the measures referred to in Article 6 paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Article 7 paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, and Article 10 for scientific purposes and/or selection work, if measures are taken to eliminate risk of spread of Potato Wart Disease and/or Potato Cyst Nematodes, as appropriate.

Article 12

Measures referred to in Articles 6 and 7 may be revoked only if, by use of methods recommended by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization or the European Union or, if such methods do not exist, other appropriate internationally recognized methods, it is found that viable Potato Wart Disease and/or Potato Cyst Nematodes are no longer present.

Article 13

This order shall come into force on the 15th day after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

No. 321-13-186/98
Ljubljana, June 12, 1998

Mr. Ciril Smrkolj
Minister of Agriculture,
Forestry and Food