**Sanitation and Containment Protocol**

**for *Dickeya* Plots on the Aroostook Farm**

General

This protocol is for plots planted with known or probable *Dickeya*-infected potato seed. The intent of planting such seed is to perform research on the pathogen or the host/pathogen interaction.

Plot Establishment

Plots are to be planted such that routine applications not made by the PI are such that the farm sprayer does not travel in the plots, but outside of the plots with the boom extended.

Maps

Plot maps are to be kept on file on site with the Farm Superintendent. These plot maps are in addition to the usual plot maps kept on file.

Plots

Farm and research machinery may enter the plot. Upon leaving the plots, the machinery is to be pressure washed and then disinfested with a 400 ppm or greater concentration of a commercially acceptable quaternary ammonium solution.

Entry into the plots is to be restricted. Only the PI (or their designee) can give authorization for entry into the plots. No unsupervised entry into the plots is to be made. All entry into the plots is at the discretion of the PI (or their designee).

Visitors not UMaine employees, must be accompanied by the PI (or their designee) during the time in the plots. A record of the time and date of visitor’s entry and leaving the plots must kept in writing for a minimum of 12 months from the date of the plot establishment. This is to be kept by the PI (or their designee).

New, unused, pullover footwear covers (*e.g*. tall booties) must be worn when entering the plots. The PI and their designees have the option of wearing rubber or rubber-like pull on footwear that can be disinfested. If these boots are worn into the plots, they must be disinfested with a 400 ppm or greater concentration of a commercially acceptable quaternary ammonium solution immediately after leaving the plots. Nitrile or similar gloves are to be worn when handling the plants in the plots. The PI is responsible for supplying the appropriate footwear coverings, hand coverings, disinfestant solution, and application equipment for applying disinfestant solution. The footwear coverings and hand coverings are to be disposed in a plastic garbage bag upon leaving the plots. The PI (or their designee) is responsible for supplying the garbage bag and placing the bag in the dumpster on the farm.

Harvest

Equipment (and people) entering the plots for harvest is treated the same as other equipment (and people) entering the plots.

Storage

Boxes, bins, and totes used for storing the harvest from the plots must be capable of being disinfested and clearly labeled as “*Dickeya*” with the name and phone number of the PI (or their designee). These boxes, bins, or totes are to be stored in a manner such that no tuber-to-tuber contact with tubers not from the *Dickeya* plots.

When the storage season is over, boxes, bins, and totes used for storing the harvest from the plots are to be cleaned and then disinfested with a 400 ppm or greater concentration of a commercially acceptable quaternary ammonium solution.

At the end of the study, all remaining harvested tubers from the *Dickeya* plots are to be composted on the Aroostook Farm or put into the dumpster on the Aroostook Farm.

Written by: S. B. Johnson, R. Smith, University of Maine, March 2016

Reviewed by: J. Hao, G. Porter, A. Alyokhin, F. Servello, University of Maine, March 2016

Revision dates:

March 2016

May 2016