



Chelan-Douglas County
Horticultural Pest & Disease Board
412 Washington Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801

September 6, 2017

RE: Metro Vancouver, British Columbia Municipal Solid Waste Importation Request

Dear Parties of Interest,

The Douglas County Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee (Ag TAC) was tasked with reviewing Waste Management's (WM) importation request to bring municipal solid waste from Metro Vancouver, British Columbia to be deposited in the Greater Wenatchee Landfill. After several meetings, the Ag TAC came to the conclusion that the municipal solid waste is acceptable to enter the landfill with conditions. Our decision was based on the information provided by Waste Management, Apple Leaf, and Douglas County Solid Waste Department. Below are the conditions.

Condition:

1. Transportation of municipal solid waste must halt if material comes into contact with Golden Nematode contaminated waste or if Golden Nematode is found in any part of the waste stream.
2. The Douglas County Health and Safety Technical Advisory Committee must review the European Fire Ant due to the possibility of public safety concerns and give an opinion to the SWAC.
3. An annual review of pests and diseases in the Metro Vancouver Area will need to be conducted to determine newly discovered pests and diseases. As well as monitor waste stream changes from areas transporting into and around the Metro Vancouver Area.
4. Waste Management must annually review trapping and monitoring protocols for each pest and disease, then implement the most effective method determined.
5. Gypsy Moth trap placement date needs to be changed to June 30th annually.

Furthermore, this decision was not a unanimous one and attached is a minority report. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Will Carpenter
Chairman / Douglas County Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee
Director / Chelan-Douglas County Horticultural Pest & Disease Board

Minority Report:

I voted against the approval of the pest management protocols for the Vancouver BC waste for the following reasons.

1. For this many pests, and this large a potential waste stream (up to 40% of the total intake to the Douglas County landfill), my professional opinion is that a more formal risk assessment is in order. Such a risk assessment was done recently for apple maggot in Washington by 3 experts with no potential conflict of interest to the situation. The Seattle office of APHIS stated that no such risk assessment was done for imported garbage from Canada when the agreement was originally made in 1957, as that “tool” was not developed and used at the time. We now have access to this important tool to be used in preventing new pest introductions, and prevention is considered as the first and most successful step in Integrated Pest Management. I do not find that the various reports, protocols, and white papers developed for the Vancouver BC importation meet the standard of a formal risk assessment.
2. Monitoring of many of the pests described in the protocols is stated as part of the procedure. But in a number of cases, no monitoring procedures exist that are effective or practical. Thus, in a sense, the county would be “flying blind” in terms of early detection if a pest was imported and survived. The current assumption is that surrounding orchardists would notify the county or other officials if they find one of these new pests. By that time the pest has escaped the confines of the landfill and thus any eradication becomes much more difficult. It seems unwise to potentially import pests that you cannot monitor for.
3. Much of the protocol is based on the assumption that the landfill practice of daily soil cover will provide adequate control of any pest that may arrive alive in the waste imported. This has been the case for apple maggot so far. But with the range of potential pests in the Vancouver BC imported waste, no evidence was presented that this assumption would hold true for all of them. Further scientific evidence is needed about pest survival in MSW in the importation and delivery process.

Thank you.

David Granatstein

Professor / Sustainable Agriculture Specialist

WSU Extension / Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources

Washington State University Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center