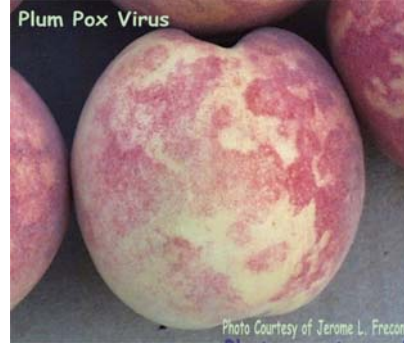


## PREVENTING PPV SPREAD VIA INFECTED FRUIT: GUIDE TO HANDLING FRUIT FROM OFF-FARM SOURCES

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**Introduction:** Recent research has found that it is possible for aphids to acquire plum pox virus (PPV) from infected fruit. If PPV – infected fruit is placed near a susceptible tree, an aphid could feed on the fruit, pick up virus, and then feed on the tree, thereby infecting the tree. Since fruit may be transported over long distances, this may be an important pathway to spread plum pox into new production areas. It is critical NOT to allow potentially infected fruit to be available to aphids. Packing houses and fruit growers and handlers should take care how they dispose of culled fruit in or around *Prunus* orchards.



### Recommendations:

If you bring peaches, plums, nectarines, or apricots onto your farm from other sources,

- ❖ Do not dispose of that fruit in or near *Prunus* orchards. Keep culls at least 1000 yards from any *Prunus* trees.
- ❖ Dispose of culled fruit in such a way that it is not available to aphids. Put in a landfill, bury the fruit, cover the pile with black plastic, and/or pulverize the fruit so that it will rot more quickly.
- ❖ If you receive packing crates that have old fruit from unknown sources stuck to the bottom, clean crates and dispose of that fruit far from *Prunus* trees.
- ❖ If you run a farm market or fruit stand, and supplement your own crop with fruit from other sources, do not store that fruit within close proximity to *Prunus* trees.

