



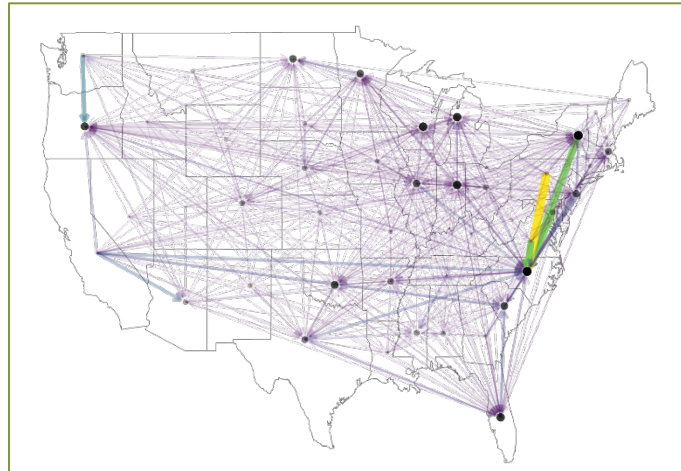
## IMPACT STATEMENT: ENSURING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION OF PLANT DIAGNOSTIC INFORMATION

### ISSUE

Prior to the creation of the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN), information on new pests and diseases was often scattered, and communications on new finds or outbreaks were poorly coordinated and inadequate.

The protection of our food supply and natural resources is a joint effort among many state, federal, private and university partners and often crosses state lines.

Frequently, private clients send their plant samples to laboratories they are familiar with, even if those laboratories are out of state (Figure 1). Before the creation of the NPDN, that information was lost to the origin states.



**Figure 1. Sample movement across state lines in a 10-year period (by Dr. Robin Choudhury)**

### APPROACH

The NPDN was established in 2002 to support plant disease diagnostic labs and improve early detection and communication of diagnostic information among states and regulatory partners.

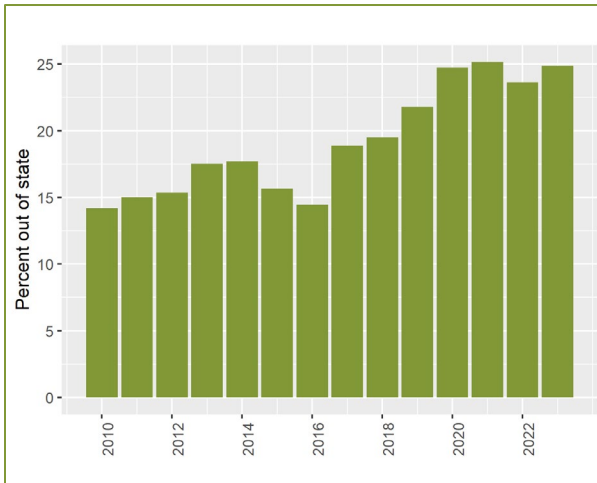
The NPDN developed a National Data Repository to compile diagnostic information nationwide and more effectively communicate information on pest detections.

### RESULTS

As of 2023 the NPDN National Data Repository had collected 3.4 million diagnoses identifying 13.5 thousand pests from 4 thousand different hosts, in 99% all U.S. counties and territories.

Since 2010, over 340 thousand diagnosis came from samples analyzed in a state different from the sample origin.

Thanks to the NPDN National Data Repository, the diagnostic labs and plant health regulatory officers in origin states are notified of new detections and can access pest detection information from their state even when diagnoses are done out of state.



**Figure 2. Percent number of samples that are diagnosed in out of state labs each year.**

## IMPACT

Diagnostic communication across state lines has become even more important in recent years, as sample movement across state lines has increased (Figure 2).

Because of the NPDN National Data Repository, new detections and other diagnostic information done out of state is still available to the states of origin.

The NPDN has developed an effective communication network among plant disease diagnostic laboratories and regulatory agencies

in plant health. If the NPDN National Data Repository did not exist, diagnostic information on new or existing pests and diseases would be scattered again.