RULE 43: Emergency Benghal Dayflower/Tropical Spiderwort (*Commelina benghalensis)* Quarantine

Under the authority of the Mississippi Plant Act, Sections 69-25-1 through 69-25-49, Rule 41 adopted there under and Section 25-43-3.108, Mississippi Code 1972 Annotated, this rule serves to prevent new introductions into Mississippi and spread of benghal dayflower/tropical spiderwort (*Commelina benghalensis)* within Mississippi. The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) hereby declares *Commelina benghalensis* to be a noxious weed and amends Rule 41 to officially list it as a noxious weed.

I. Notice is hereby given that the movement from infested fields of certain articles listed below poses a risk of spreading this economic pest to other major row crop areas:

   A. All live stages of *Commelina benghalensis,* including seeds, vegetative growth, roots and rhizomes.
   B. Soil from known infested fields, whether on commodities, seed or equipment if not fumigated to kill all stages of the weed.
   C. Unclean farming equipment, excavation equipment and vehicles containing or holding soil or vegetative plant material, including but not limited to peanut harvesters, combines, tillage equipment, cotton pickers, bulldozers, backhoes, excavators, dump trucks, etc.

II. Areas affected: George, Jackson and adjacent counties.

III. Farmers and landowners in affected counties are hereby advised that equipment as described in I(C) should be clean of vegetative matter and soil before moving from an infested field in order to prevent spread to adjacent areas.

IV. This emergency notification shall take effect immediately and be in effect for no more than 120 days until a more comprehensive rule can be adopted.

Adopted : Lester Spell, Jr. DVM Date: August 25, 2006
Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M.
Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce

Mike Tagert
Date: August 25, 2006
Mike Tagert
Director, Bureau of Plant Industry