



National Plant Board Meeting 2003 Tacoma, Washington

Sponsored By:

 **Washington State Dept of Agriculture**
3939 Cleveland Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: (360) 586-8483 or (800) 443-6684

Meeting Location:

 **Sheraton Tacoma Hotel**
1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, WA 98402
Phone: (800) 325-3535

OFFICERS:

President – Bill Callison, California
Vice-President – Bill Dickerson, North Carolina
Secretary-Treasurer – Kenneth Rauscher, Michigan

TO: National Plant Board
FROM: Claudette Needham and Irish Malig, Washington State Dept of Agriculture
SUBJECT: 2003 National Plant Board Meeting

The Washington State Department of Agriculture and the *National Plant Board* invite you to attend and participate in the **2003 National Plant Board Meeting** in Tacoma, Washington the Evergreen State. Meeting dates for Board Members are Sunday through Wednesday, August 10th through 13th, 2003. Meeting dates for General Session are Monday through Wednesday, August 11th through 13th, 2003. The deadline for returning registration forms is **Monday, July 7th, 2003**.

Attire

West of the Cascades summers are typically warm and dry with average temperatures in the 70's. Please pack accordingly.

Accommodations

NPB attendees need to make their own reservations by calling the *Sheraton Tacoma Hotel* at 1(800) 325-3535 or (253) 572-3200. Reservations should be made by **Thursday, July 17th, 2003** to obtain the group rate. Request rooms that are reserved for the **2003 National Plant Board Meeting**. The room rate is \$99.00 plus tax for single occupancy and \$10.00 for each additional person. Upgrades are available at a discounted rate. Please make your reservations early.

Transportation

Your reservations should be made to fly into the *SeaTac International Airport* in *Seattle, Washington*. From the airport to the *Sheraton Tacoma Hotel* is about a half-hour drive. There is guest parking available on-site, and currently *the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel* charges \$12.00 for self-parking and \$14.00 for valet parking. A group rate has been generously provided to us by Capital Aeroporter of \$30 for a round trip. Please contact the Capitol Aeroporter two weeks in advance if possible. Be sure to let them know you are with the **2003 National Plant Board Meeting** at the Tacoma Sheraton. Contact *Capitol Aeroporter* at 1(800) 926-3579.

Events

Extra curricular activities for the **2003 National Plant Board Meeting** in Tacoma include a Tacoma Rainiers baseball game, Safeguarding North American Agriculture Port Tour, and a spouse's Tour of Seattle and Pike Place Market.

The Tacoma Rainiers is the Triple-A affiliate of the Seattle Mariners. The Rainiers are where great players such as Mark McGuire, Gaylord Perry, Gil Mesh, Jason Giambi, William McCovey, Jay Buhner, Manny Mota, and Alex Rodriguez began their careers. A separate picnic area, located next to Rainier's Bullpen on First Base side, will be reserved for our group that will allow us to eat, visit, and watch the game. The Rainiers will be playing the Edmonton Trappers on Monday, August 11th. This event was put together to facilitate networking outside of the meeting environment

The Port of Tacoma Tour of import facilities will showcase safeguarding measures put into place to protect North American Agriculture. The Port of Tacoma is one of the nation's top three major import centers. This tour is included in your registration.



Spouse's Tour: The Pike Place Market is a nine-acre historic district hosting nine million visitors each year who come to experience the unique sites and sounds of Seattle's downtown public market. Making up the Pike Place Market are more than 100 farmers, 150 craftspeople, nearly 300 commercial businesspeople, and 50 performers.

Meeting Registration

Please return your registration forms by **Monday, July 7th, 2003**. Make checks payable to the *National Plant Board*. A **late fee of \$50.00** will be added to any registration postmarked after **Monday, July 7th, 2003**.

Exhibit Registration

Exhibit Registration is also provided on the Registration Form (*Exhibit Space Needed*). Please indicate whether you will need a table for an exhibit. Space is limited, so please register early.

Speaker Presentation Requirements

Speakers should notify Claudette Needham at cneedham@agr.wa.gov for media needs. Speaker Registration is due no later than **Monday, July 28th, 2003**.

We look forward to your attendance at our annual meeting. If you have any questions, please call us at (360) 586-8483 or by fax at (360) 586-8509. You may also try our email addresses at cneedham@agr.wa.gov or imalig@agr.wa.gov.

For additional information visit these websites:

The National Plant Board Meeting

National Plant Board	www.aphis.usda.gov/npb/index.html
United States Department of Agriculture	www.usda.gov/
Washington State Department of Agriculture	www.agr.wa.gov
Washington State Government Information & Services	www.access.wa.gov/

Accommodations

SeaTac International Airport	www.portseattle.org/seatac/default.htm
Tacoma Sheraton	www.sheratontacoma.com/

City and Port Information

Port of Tacoma	www.portoftacoma.com/
Tacoma-Pierce County	www.traveltacoma.com/
The City of Seattle	www.cityofseattle.net/
The City of Tacoma	www.cityoftacoma.org/

Natural Scenic History

Mount Rainier National Park	www..nps.gov/mora/
Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument	www.fs.fed.us/gpnr/mshnvm/
Olympic National Park	www.nps.gov/olym/
Washington State History Museum	www.wshs.org/wshm/index.htm

Other Interests

Emerald Downs	www.emdowns.com/
Emerald Queen Casino	www.emeraldqueen.com/
Museum of Glass	www.museumofglass.org/
Pike Place Market	www.pikeplacemarket.org/
Point Defiance Zoo	www.pdza.org/
Tacoma Art Museum	www.tacomaartmuseum.org/
Tacoma Golf Courses	thecityoftacoma.com/golfcourse/
Tacoma Rainiers	www.tacomarainiers.com/

Local News

The Tacoma News Tribune	www.tribnet.com/
The Seattle Times	seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/home/
The Olympian	www.theolympian.com/home/

