

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2326 (Committee on Agriculture)
As Introduced February 19, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill would extend the operation of the Broomrape Program by 2 years until July 1, 2030.

Major Provisions

This bill would extend the operation of the Broomrape Program by 2 years until July 1, 2030.

COMMENTS

Broomrapes are root parasitic plants that can cause devastating damage to tomatoes and many other economically important broadleaf crops. These weeds use a modified root, called a haustorium, to fuse into a host plant root and extract nutrients and water. This greatly reduces productivity and sometimes kills the host. Broomrape was the focus of an eradication effort four decades ago in California, has recently re-emerged in tomato fields in several Central Valley counties.

Tomatoes are highly susceptible to both branched broomrape and Egyptian broomrape. CDFA has classified broomrape as an "A" pest. An "A" pest is an organism of known economic importance subject to state-enforced action involving eradication, quarantine regulation, containment, rejection, or other holding action. The discovery of broomrape in a commercial tomato field leads to quarantine and crop destruction without harvest; processors will not accept a load of tomatoes from an infested field.

Beet Leafhopper Control (FAC 6031-6043), Cotton Pest Control (FAC 6001 - 6006.6) and The Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board (FAC6045 – 6047) are example of pest control boards with in FAC that tackle specific pest and vectors. The Boards provide recommendations to the secretary on the use of funds collected under specified pest assessment. The focus of Board funds is on research to find solutions to pest issues.

The BP board has developed its priorities for with the overarching strategy of supporting immediate voluntary industry controls to reduce broomrape risks while pursuing and implementing long-term research solutions aimed at better detection, prevention, control and eventual eradication.

According to the Author

This bill will extend the operation of BP by 2 years until July 1, 2030, helping California farmers in the eventual eradication of noxious weed affecting many crops.

Arguments in Support

None on File

Arguments in Opposition

None on File

FISCAL COMMENTS

Ongoing annual costs to CDFA in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to continue operating the Broomrape Program until July 1, 2030 (Broomrape Management Account – housed in the Food and Agriculture Fund). As discussed below, CDFA has established an assessment of \$0.14 per ton of processing tomatoes produced in each district to be paid equally by the producer and handler to fund the program. CDFA reports it is continuing to work with the industry to establish and grow the program. The department has allocated initial staffing to support permitting, rulemaking, compliance, and research needs. Depending on program funding and needs, CDFA notes its staffing could fluctuate in the future. Overall program costs between fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26 were approximately \$1.2 million (not yet fully covered by the industry assessment.) CDFA projects approximately \$535,000 in program costs for the current year.

VOTES**ASM AGRICULTURE: 8-0-0**

YES: Soria, Hadwick, Aguiar-Curry, Alanis, Connolly, Jeff Gonzalez, Irwin, Ransom

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 15-0-0

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: February 19, 2026

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