

Date of Hearing: March 25, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Esmeralda Soria, Chair
AB 2326 (Committee on Agriculture) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Broomrape Program: extension

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

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes, until July 1 2028, in the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) a Broomrape Program (BP).
- 2) Establishes the Broomrape Board (BP board) within CDFA to advise the Secretary of CDFA and make recommendations on all matters relating to broomrape, as specified.
- 3) Requires the BP board to recommend specified actions to the secretary, including, among other things, conducting research related to broomrape, surveying, detecting, analyzing, and treating causes of broomrape, and establishing an annual assessment rate or schedule of rates to be paid equally by producers and handlers of tomatoes.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

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.

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

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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