

**MONITORING THE POTATO PSYLLID IN *SOLANUM DULCAMARA*, A POTENTIAL OVERWINTER  
HOST PLANT IN THE COLUMBIA BASIN**

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While potato psyllids have been consistently found in the region by early to mid-July each year, no Zebra Chip (ZC) disease caused by *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* (Lso) was confirmed until late 2011. This confirmation included Idaho, the main potato producer in the USA. Given the great importance of potato production in the region, this disease poses a new and significant threat to production in the region. Zebra Chip, transmitted by the potato psyllid (*Bactericera cockerelli* Sulc) (Hemiptera: Triozidae) was unknown to the Pacific Northwest until 2011. In 2012 we were able to confirm that *B. cockerelli* was able to survive the winter in the Oregon-Washington border, at least under mild winter conditions. Potato psyllids were found in bittersweet nightshade, *Solanum dulcamara* L. Following the survey of *S. dulcamara* plants initiated in 2011-2012 in the Columbia Basin, a comprehensive monitoring program will be implemented in 2013. The information obtained from this study will serve to answer important questions regarding this pest such as: Are there other solanaceous weeds where the potato psyllids can survive? Do mild temperatures play a role in potato psyllid survival? When does the potato psyllid start to migrate from the potential overwintering sites to the potato fields and why?



Bittersweet nightshade occurs in a wide range of habitats including irrigation canals and marshals