INTRODUCTION
In response to growing concern over virus-infected herbaceous perennial imports from the Netherlands, in 2009 the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) continued its program to systematically document the prevalence of viruses in imported perennials. In 2006, this survey was restricted to two viruses of Hosta. In 2007, it was expanded to include 15 perennial genera and a suite of 12 viruses and in 2009 it was repeated and expanded slightly to include 16 perennial genera and 13 viruses.

MATERIALS & METHODS
Plants were sampled directly from shipments from the Netherlands at several nurseries in Michigan during the winter and early spring. From each shipment, five bare-root plants of each target genus present were collected and forwarded to the MDA Plant Pathology Laboratory. Plants were potted and greenhouse grown until sufficient leaf tissue was available for testing. All but one test was performed by the MDA using ELISA test kits from Agdia, Inc. Tobacco rattle virus (TRV) testing on Dicentra and Paeonia was performed by Agdia, Inc. using PCR because ELISA is not available for this virus.

RESULTS
In 2006, a total of 22 out of 55 varieties of Hosta tested positive for virus (Table 1) of which three varieties tested positive for both hosta virus X (HVX) and arabis mosaic virus (ArMV). More plants were found to be infected with HVX (46 out of 665) than ArMV (35 out of 665). In 2007, 13% of the plants tested and 6 out of the 15 genera were found to be infected with a virus. In 2009, 24% of the plants tested and 10 out of the 16 genera tested were positive for virus (Fig. 3). The strongest and most consistent host-virus relationship was between Iris and Freesia having greater than 50% infection rate with the poty-virus group (Fig. 4). Of the number of viruses tested for in 2007 and 2009, 5 out of 12 and 8 out of 13 were found each year, respectively.

DISCUSSION
Since the plants sampled were not propagated at the facilities from which they were collected, it is evident that bare root plants and bulbs arriving from The Netherlands were already infected with viruses. Since the beginning of testing the rate of virus infection has not decreases in four years but has actually doubled. This survey data is critical as we look at the effectiveness of the Dutch Preclearance Program which is negotiated between USDA and the Dutch inspection agencies annually. This data is valuable in assessing the effectiveness of the current program and to make adjustments to the work plan as tolerance levels for various diseases and species are established and revised. Finally, this information is valuable for other plant pest safeguarding agencies such as NPDN, and the National Plant Board as we strive to understand the prevalence and importance of various diseases associated with imported material.

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Table 1. In 2006, 55 varieties of Hosta were tested for arabis mosaic virus (ArMV) and hosta virus X (HVX). Listed below are the varieties that had an infection rate greater than 3% for ArMV and 15% for HVX.