EUROPHYT interceptions in February 2024

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Report on EUROPHYT interceptions in February 2024

Update

This report summarises EUROPHYT interceptions of products entering the European Union from low- and middle-income countries that occurred in February 2024.

In February 2024 there were 70 interceptions due to harmful organisms affecting 17 countries, and 330 interceptions due to other non-conformities affecting 38 partner countries.

Impacted products

Plants and plant products

What is changing?

Harmful organisms

In February 2024 there were 70 EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms as detailed in Table 1.

Other non-conformities

There were also 330 interceptions due to other non-conformities, affecting 38 partner countries (see Table 2).

For more detail see EUROPHYT interception February 2024 report.

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What are the major implications for exporting countries?

EUROPHYT interceptions can have significant impacts on producers and exporters. A shipment is intercepted at EU border controls when products do not comply with the EU's phytosanitary requirements. As a result, the affected importer/exporter/producer may face a range of consequences including delayed shipments, additional costs of testing and inspection, and potential rejections or destruction of their products. These interceptions can also damage the reputation of the producer/exporter in the EU market, which may affect their ability to conduct future trade with EU buyers. It can also have impacts on the export sector as a whole, particularly when repeated interceptions lead to more stringent plant health measures or bans.

Recommended Actions

Producers and exporters must take proactive measures to ensure their products comply with EU phytosanitary requirements to avoid the risk of interceptions. This can include implementing effective pest management strategies, using certified seeds and planting material, and complying with regulations and standards.

Background

EUROPHYT is the European Union Notification System for Plant Health Interceptions.

The basis for EUROPHYT interceptions is the obligation for EU Member States (and Switzerland) to rapidly report the occurrence of harmful organisms and other non-conformities found during import controls, to prevent the introduction and spread of pests and diseases. Interceptions due to "other non-conformities" are usually caused by an inaccurate or missing phytosanitary certificate.

Notifications of such interceptions are disseminated EU-wide and to the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country. The legal framework for EUROPHYT interceptions is provided by Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on plant health. For more information about plant health law, see EU plant health law explained.

Also see Official Controls Regulation - explained.

Resources

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO)

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European Commission (2024) Interceptions of harmful organisms in imported plants and other objects

Sources

European Commission (2024) Number of occurrences of harmful organism(s) in commodities imported into the EU or Switzerland (February 2024)

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables, and leaves – February 2024

Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products	Harmful organisms
Brazil	11	Limes	Fungus, citrus canker
		Passion fruit	Fruit flies
Cambodia	1	Peppers	Fruit flies
China	1	Grapefruit	Fungus
Colombia	8	Limes	Fungus
		Tamarillos	Tomato fruit borer
		Physalis	Tobacco budworm
Congo	11	Solanaceae	Nematodes, whiteflies, leaf-miner flies, moths
		Amaranths	Whiteflies
		Cassava	Whiteflies
		Chicory	Leaf-miner flies
		Onions	Leaf-miner flies
		Spinaches	Moths
		Non-specified vegetables	Moths, whiteflies
Ecuador	1	Asparagus	Fall armyworm
Egypt	1	Guava	Fruit flies
India	2	Gourds	Fruit flies
Kenya	19	Beans	Moths
		Basil	Fall armyworm, whiteflies, leaf-miner flies
		Brassica vegetables	Moths
		Sweet corn	Moths
		Peas	Moths
		Gourds	Fruit flies
Mexico	3	Asparagus	Fall armyworm, yellow-striped armyworm
Peru	2	Asparagus	Tobacco budworm, fall armyworm
Senegal	2	Eggplants	Moths
Sri Lanka	1	Gourds	Fruit flies
Suriname	2	Celery	Moths
Thailand	3	Asparagus	Thrips
		Curcuma	Bacterial disease (*Ralstonia*)
		Coriander	Whiteflies
Vietnam	1	Rambutan	Fruit flies
Zimbabwe	1	Peppers	False codling moth

*N = number of interceptions.

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Source: EUROPHYT monthly report

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Table 2
EUROPHYT interceptions due to other non-conformities on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables, and leaves – February 2024

Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products	Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products
Algeria	1	Sweet and chili peppers	Egypt	62	Celery
Argentina	2	Garlic			Sweet and chili peppers
Bolivia	1	Potatoes			Mandarin
Brazil	3	Persian limes, mango			Sweet oranges
Cameroon	3	Garlic, sweet and chili peppers, ginger			Potatoes
China	2	Peanut			Potatoes
		Ambarella and other *Spondias* species	Equatorial Guinea	3	Sweet potato
Colombia	6	Palm hearts			Cassava
		Papaya			Ginger
		Mango	Ethiopia	1	Sweet and chili peppers
		Peruvian groundcherry	Ghana	6	Okra
		Potatoes			Sweet and chili peppers
Congo	18	Amaranths			Sweet potato
		Courgettes, pumpkins, and other *Cucurbita* species			Cassava
		Sweet potato	India	7	Sweet and chili peppers
		Potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and other Solanaceae species			Mango
		Chives			Moringa
		Cassava			Curry tree, orange jessamine, and other *Murraya* species
		Amaranths			Ginger
		Chicory roots	Iran	2	Sweet and chili peppers
		Water spinach			Lemons
		Spinach	Kenya	4	Asparagus
Cuba	8	Mango			Basil
		Avocado			Sweet corn
Democratic Republic of the Congo	7	Ethiopian eggplants	Laos	32	Soursop
		Amaranths			Sweetsop
		Roselle, chinese hibiscus, and other *Hibiscus* species			Chili pepper
		Sweet potato and other *Ipomoea* species			Mango
		Spinach			Common guava
		Vegetable plants			Eggplant
Dominican Republic	4	Sweet and chili peppers			Turkey berry
		Mango			Culantro
		Avocado			Basil
		Potatoes			Culantro
Ecuador	7	Mediterranean mandarin			Rice paddy herb and other *Limnophila* species
		Loquats/Japanese medlars			Basil
		Mango			Holy basil
		Peaches, plums, and other *Prunus*	Mali	2	Peanut
		Common plum			Mango
		Tomato	Mexico	2	Asparagus
					Chili pepper

*N = number of interceptions.

Continued…

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Table 2 Continued

Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products	Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products
Morocco	50	Onions	Philippines	1	Ginger
		Garlic	Senegal	8	Okra
		Celery			Watermelon
		Peanut			Key limes
		Beet			Mango
		Sweet and chili peppers			Bay laurel
		Clementines			Horticultural plants
		Lemons	South Africa	7	Chili pepper
		Sweet oranges			Lemons
		Cucumber			Nectarine
		Courgettes, pumpkins, and other *Cucurbita* species			Japanese plum
		Artichoke			European pear
		Carrots	Sri Lanka	20	Sweet and chili peppers
		Walnuts			Papaya
		Apple			Courgettes, pumpkins, and other *Cucurbita* species
		European olive			Mangosteen
		Common beans			Mango
		Date palm			Rambutan
		Sweet cherry			Passion fruit, sweet granadilla, and other *Passiflora* species
		Almond			Passion fruit (purple)
		Tomato			Avocado
		Potatoes			Common guava
		Ginger			Basil and edible flowers
		Jujube			Laurel/bay leaves
		Spearmint			Spinach
		Horticultural plants	Suriname	1	Cowpea, yardlong bean, and other *Vigna* species
		Basil	Thailand	3	Litchi
		Parsley			Apple
		Thyme and other thyme species			Mango
Nigeria	1	Sweet and chili peppers	Türkiye	7	Sweet and chili peppers
Pakistan	3	Sweet and chili peppers			Cucumber
		Mango			Mango
Peru	33	Peanut			Tomato
		Asparagus	Uganda	1	Curry tree, orange jessamine, and other *Murraya* species
		Sweet and chili peppers	Uzbekistan	8	Turnip
		Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, etc.)			Carrots
		Artichoke	Venezuela	1	Avocado
		Fennel	Vietnam	1	Chili pepper
		Pacay – legume vegetable	Zimbabwe	2	Sweet and chili peppers
		Sweet potato			
		Apple			
		Mango			
		Horticultural plants			
		Passion fruit, sweet granadilla, and other *Passiflora* species			
		Passion fruit (yellow)			
		Avocado			
		Potatoes			
		Ulluco			
		Sweet corn			
		Bay laurel			

*N = number of interceptions.

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