

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](#).

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](#))

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 \(February 2024\)](#)

Table & 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 (<i>Ralstonia</i>)
		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](#)

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
Colombia	6	Ambarella and other <i>Spondias</i> species	Equatorial Guinea	3	Sweet potato
		Palm hearts			Cassava
		Papaya			Ginger
		Mango	Ethiopia	1	Sweet and chili peppers
		Peruvian groundcherry	Ghana	6	Okra
Congo	18	Potatoes			Sweet and chili peppers
		Amaranths			Sweet potato
		Courgettes, pumpkins, and other <i>Cucurbita</i> 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 <i>Murraya</i> species
		Amaranths			Ginger
		Chicory roots	Iran	2	Sweet and chili peppers
		Water spinach			Lemons
Cuba	8	Spinach	Kenya	4	Asparagus
		Mango			Basil
		Avocado			Sweet corn
Democratic Republic of the Congo	7	Ethiopian eggplants	Laos	32	Soursop
		Amaranths			Sweetsop
		Roselle, chinese hibiscus, and other <i>Hibiscus</i> species			Chili pepper
		Sweet potato and other <i>Ipomoea</i> 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 <i>Limnophila</i> species
		Loquats/Japanese medlars			Basil
		Mango			Holy basil
		Peaches, plums, and other <i>Prunus</i>	Mali	2	Peanut
		Common plum			Mango
		Tomato	Mexico	2	Asparagus
					Chili pepper


*N = number of interceptions.

Continued...

Source: [EUROPHYT monthly report](#)

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 <i>Cucurbita</i> species	Japanese plum				
		Artichoke	European pear				
		Carrots	Sri Lanka	20			Sweet and chili peppers
		Walnuts			Papaya		
		Apple			Courgettes, pumpkins, and other <i>Cucurbita</i> species		
		European olive			Mangosteen		
		Common beans			Mango		
		Date palm			Rambutan		
		Sweet cherry			Passion fruit, sweet granadilla, and other <i>Passiflora</i> 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 <i>Vigna</i> 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	Uganda	1	Curry tree, orange jessamine, and other <i>Murraya</i> species		
		Asparagus			Uzbekistan	8	Turnip
		Sweet and chili peppers	Carrots				
		Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, etc.)	Venezuela	1	Avocado		
		Artichoke			Vietnam	1	Chili pepper
		Fennel	Zimbabwe	2	Sweet and chili peppers		
		Pacay – legume vegetable					
		Sweet potato					
		Apple					
		Mango					
		Horticultural plants					
		Passion fruit, sweet granadilla, and other <i>Passiflora</i> species					
		Passion fruit (yellow)					
		Avocado					
		Potatoes					
		Ulluco					
		Sweet corn					
Bay laurel							

*N = number of interceptions.



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