

EUROPHYT interceptions in April 2024

Published by AGRINFO on 22 May 2024

Report on plant health (EUROPHYT) interceptions in April 2024

TRACES: [Number of occurrences of harmful organism\(s\) in commodities imported into the EU or Switzerland](#) (April 2024)

Update

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

In April 2024, there were 77 interceptions due to harmful organisms affecting 21 [AGRINFO partner countries](#), and 289 interceptions due to other non-conformities that affected 35 partner countries.

Impacted products

Plants and plant products

Interceptions

Harmful organisms

In April 2024 there were 77 EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms affecting 21 low- and middle-income (AGRINFO partner) countries (see Table 1).

Other non-conformities

There were also 289 interceptions due to other non-conformities, affecting 35 partner countries (see Table 2).

For more detail see [TRACES: Number of occurrences of harmful organism\(s\) in commodities imported into the EU or Switzerland](#) (April 2024).

Timeline

April 2024

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

EUROPHYT interceptions can have significant impacts on producers and exporters. Shipments are intercepted at EU border controls when products do not comply with the EU's phytosanitary requirements. As a result, the affected importer, exporter, or producer may face a range of consequences, including delayed shipments, additional costs of testing and inspection, and potential rejection 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 Plant Protection Organization ([EPPO](#))

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

Sources

TRACES: [Number of occurrences of harmful organism\(s\) in commodities imported into the EU or Switzerland](#) (April 2024)

Visit the [AGRINFO website](#) to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and [search](#) the database.

Table & Figures

Table 1			
EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables, and leaves – April 2024			
Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products	Harmful organisms
Bangladesh	3	Sweet and chilli peppers	Fruit flies
		Jute mallow and other <i>Corchorus</i> spp.	Whiteflies
		Common guava	Fruit flies
Brazil	8	Chilli pepper	Moths
		Persian limes	Fungus
		Persimmon	Fruit flies
Cameroon	19	Sweet potato	Nematodes
		Mango	Fruit flies
		Avocado	Butterflies and moths
		Avocado	False codling moth
China	1	Ginger	Fungus
Colombia	4	Peruvian groundcherry	Moths
		Tamarillo	Moths
		Naranjilla	Moths
Côte d'Ivoire	1	Mango	False codling moth
Dominican Republic	1	Arrowleaf elephant ear and other <i>Xanthosoma</i> spp.	Whiteflies
Egypt	4	Potatoes	Bacteria
Ethiopia	1	Basil	Leaf-miner flies
Indonesia	1	Kaffir limes	Fungus
Kenya	2	Basil	Whiteflies
Mexico	2	Asparagus	Moths
Peru	1	Mango	Fruit flies
Republic of the Congo	2	Chives	Whiteflies
		Leafy vegetable	Whiteflies
Senegal	3	Sweet and chilli peppers	Whiteflies
		Sweet and chilli peppers	Fruit flies
South Africa	2	Courgettes, pumpkins, and other <i>Cucurbita</i> spp.	Fruit flies
		Red raspberry	False codling moth
Sri Lanka	3	Okra	Leaf-miner flies
		Angled luffas	Fruit flies
		Snake gourd, pointed gourd, and other <i>Trichosanthes</i> spp.	Fruit flies
Suriname	4	Sweet and chilli peppers	Whiteflies
		Chilli pepper	Whiteflies, fall armyworm
		Arrowleaf elephant ear and other <i>Xanthosoma</i> spp.	Whiteflies
Thailand	7	Cassava	Leaf-miner flies
		Chilli pepper	Fruit flies
		Rice paddy herb and other <i>Limnophila</i> spp.	Whiteflies
		Basil	Whiteflies
		Holy basil	Whiteflies
		Betel leaves	Whiteflies
		Knotweed	Whiteflies
Uganda	2	Sweet and chilli peppers	False codling moth
Vietnam	6	Pomelo	Fungus
		Culantro	Whiteflies
		Java apple	Fruit flies

* N = number of interceptions.


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Source: TRACES: [Number of occurrences of harmful organism\(s\) in commodities imported into the EU or Switzerland](#) (April 2024)

Table 2 EUROPHYT interceptions due to other non-conformities on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables and leaves – April 2024					
Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products	Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products
Argentina	1	European pear	Cuba	3	Sweet and chilli peppers
Armenia	1	Jujube			Taro
Bangladesh	3	Cabbages, kales, and other brassica vegetables			Guavas
		Wood apple	Democratic Republic of the Congo	2	Ambarella
		Common guava	Dominican Republic	3	Papaya
Brazil	4	Papaya			Taro
		Persian limes			Mango
		Mango	Ecuador	18	Peanut
		Grapes			Carambola
Burundi	2	Papaya			Papaya
		Common plum			Pitahaya
Cameroon	1	Purple yam			Mango
China	9	Peanut			Avocado
		Cucumbers, gherkins, and other <i>Cucumis</i> species			Tamarillo
		Apples			Potatoes
		Mangoes and other <i>Mangifera</i> species			Cacao
		Asian pear			Broad bean
		Tomato			Sweet corn
Colombia	40	Soursop			Mixed plants
		Palm hearts	Egypt	46	Mandarin
		Mango			Sweet oranges
		Passion fruit (purple)			Tomato
		Banana passionfruit			Potatoes
		Peruvian groundcherry	Ethiopia	2	Horticultural plants
		Mamey sapote	Ghana	2	Onions
		Pitahaya			Sweet and chilli peppers
		Tamarillo	Honduras	1	Okra
		Naranjilla	India	2	Mango
Costa Rica	1	Chayote			Grapes
Côte d'Ivoire	3	Mango	Kazakhstan	4	Onions
			Kenya	8	Sweet and chilli peppers
					Basil
			Mali	1	Ethiopian eggplants
			Mexico	1	Key limes

Continued...

Table 2 Continued					
Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products	Country of origin	N*	Intercepted products
Morocco	45	Onions	South Africa	2	Chilli pepper
		Garlic			Apple
		Cabbages, kales, and other brassica vegetables	Sri Lanka	12	Okra
		Sweet and chilli peppers			Cabbages, kales, and other brassica vegetables
		Watermelon			Papaya
		Lemons			Asiatic pennywort
		Mandarin			Bitter melon and other <i>Momordica</i> spp.
		Sweet oranges			Moringa
		Melons (excl. watermelons)			Curry tree
		Pumpkin			Winged bean
		Carrots			Eggplant
		Mango			Bengal quince
		Common beans			Asiatic pennywort
		American plum			Curry tree, orange jessamine, and other <i>Murraya</i> spp.
		Red raspberry	Togo	2	Jute mallow and other <i>Corchorus</i> spp.
		Tomato			Roselle
		Eggplant	Tunisia	10	Onions
		Lowbush blueberry			Sweet and chilli peppers
		Sage			Sweet oranges
		Thyme			Pumpkin
		Spearmint			Globe artichoke
		Peppermint			Peas
Nicaragua	1	Yams			Almond
Pakistan	2	Common guava			Peach
		Eggplant	Türkiye	14	Garlic
Peru	20	Asparagus			Cabbages, kales, and other brassica vegetables
		Sweet and chilli peppers			Sweet and chilli peppers
		Chilli pepper			Grapefruit
		Key limes			Cucumber
		Mango			Carrots
		Mixed plants			Parsley
		Avocado			Peaches, plums, other <i>Prunus</i>
		Common beans			American plum
		Eggplant			Tomato
		Grapes			Eggplant
Republic of the Congo	3	Sweet corn	Vietnam	11	Sweetsop
		Lemon grass			Jackfruit
Senegal	9	Leafy vegetables			Plum mango
		African baobab			Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons)
		Cashew			Langsat
		Peanut			Mango
		Mango			Sapodilla
		Mixed plants			Passion fruit (purple)
		Roselle			Common guava
					Malay pommarosas
					Indian jujube

* N = number of interceptions.

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