

EUROPHYT interceptions in April 2024

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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)

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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		
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		
Colombia			40	Tomato	Ecuador	18	Sweet corn
	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				
Chayote			Grapes				
Costa Rica	1	Chayote	Kazakhstan	4	Onions		
Côte d'Ivoire	3	Mango			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	
Sweet corn		Vietnam	11	Sweetsop		
Republic of the Congo	3	Lemon grass			Jackfruit	
		Leafy vegetables			Plum mango	
Senegal	9	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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