List of Union quarantine pests and plant health import requirements

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Give feedback until 29 December 2026 on the EU's updated list of Union quarantine pests and proposed plant health import requirements

Draft Commission Implementing Regulation amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards measures to prevent the entry into the Union territory, and the spread within it, of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*, *Agrilus planipennis*, *Chloridea virescens*, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4, *Hirschmanniella* spp., *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, Raspberry leaf curl virus, *Spodoptera ornithogalli*, *Spodoptera praefica*, Strawberry leaf curl virus, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, *Toumeyella parvicornis* and *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola*, as regards changes of protected zones in relation to Beet necrotic yellow vein virus and *Erwinia amylovora*, amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1927

Draft Annex

Update

The European Commission is proposing changes to the European Union (EU) rules on plant health and on importing plants and plant products. The main changes for agri-food products are as follows.

- Five new pests will be added to the EU quarantine pest list. These include tobacco budworm (Chloridea virescens) and yellow-striped armyworm (Spodoptera ornithogalli and Spodoptera praefica) affecting a wide range of crops, and Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4 (TR4) affecting bananas. Products containing these pests will not be allowed to enter the EU.
- No new specific import requirements are proposed for fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Three pests will be removed from the quarantine list. These are the citrus spiny whitefly, raspberry leaf curl virus, and strawberry leaf curl virus. There is currently not enough reliable scientific information to enable these pests to be identified and tested.

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- New traceability requirements will apply in relation to false codling moth (Thaumatotibia leucotreta, FCM). These requirements will apply to some fresh fruits (peppers, peaches, nectarines, pomegranates, certain citrus fruits) and to cut roses originating in Africa. Where these products are exported in packages, in addition to the phytosanitary certificate that is already required, exporters will have to include the codes identifying production places or sites on each package.

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the World Trade Organization can comment on this proposal until **29 December 2026**.

Impacted products

Peppers (Capsicum spp.), peaches, nectarines, pomegranates, citrus fruits (excluding lemons and limes), sweet oranges, grapevines, cut roses

What is changing?

The EU has notified the World Trade Organization Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO SPS) Committee of a new draft proposal updating the EU list of Union quarantine pests and plant health import requirements (G/SPS/N/EU/987). The proposal includes amendments to Regulation 2019/2072, which establishes the EU's phytosanitary requirements for plants and plant products.

The main proposed changes relevant to agri-food products are as follows:

New Union quarantine pests

Five pests are added to the list of Union quarantine pests (Annex II):

- TR4 (Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense Tropical Race 4) – a fungal pathogen causing severe disease in bananas
- tobacco budworm (Chloridea virescens) – a polyphagous moth affecting numerous agricultural crops
- yellow-striped armyworm (Spodoptera ornithogalli and Spodoptera praefica); polyphagous moths affecting a wide range of cultivated plants
- leaf spot of grapevine (Xanthomonas citri pv. viticola) – a bacterium causing leaf spot and bacterial canker in grapevines.

Chloridea virescens and *Spodoptera ornithogalli* are currently on the EU's temporary list of prohibited pests (Regulation 2022/1941).

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The proposal does not introduce new commodity-specific import requirements for fresh fruit and vegetables in relation to these newly listed pests. However, any plant products found to contain these quarantine pests will not be allowed into the EU market.

Removal of three pests from the quarantine list

Three organisms will be removed from Annex II:

- Aleurocanthus spiniferus – already established in several EU countries, where it can be controlled without unacceptable economic impacts. Existing EU containment measures will also be repealed.
- raspberry leaf curl virus and strawberry leaf curl virus – identities are insufficiently established and there are no reliable diagnostic protocols.

Changes to import requirements for false codling moth (FCM, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*)

The following requirements apply to capsicum, peaches and nectarines (*Prunus persica*), pomegranates (*Punica granatum*), some citrus fruits, and roses. They concern exports from countries of the African continent; the islands of Cabo Verde, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion, and Saint Helena; and Israel.

Currently, to demonstrate compliance with FCM import rules, phytosanitary certificates must contain codes identifying the place of production (62 & 62.1-c) or production sites (62 & 62.1-d). This proposal introduces an additional traceability requirement (Regulation 2019/2072, Annex VII, points 62 & 62.1) when these products are exported in packages. The codes for the place of production or production sites will also need to be indicated on **each individual package** of fruit or cut flowers.

Why?

The EU regularly reviews its plant health rules to prevent harmful pests from entering and spreading in its territory. Scientific risk assessments, notably by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and pest risk analyses developed by the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), inform these decisions. The European Commission, together with the EU Member States, decide which pests are listed as Union quarantine pests in Regulation 2019/2072 and adjusts the import requirements accordingly, taking into account interceptions at EU borders.

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Timeline

The proposed Regulation is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2027.

The new package labelling requirements relating to FCM will apply 3 months after publication.

The revised list of quarantine pests will apply 6 months after publication.

What are the major implications for exporting countries?

Changes to import requirements for FCM: exporters of the affected fruits and cut flowers will need to adapt their packaging and traceability procedures to ensure that the production place/site codes on the phytosanitary certificate also appear on each package.

New Union quarantine pests: in particular, *Chloridea virescens*, *Spodoptera ornithogalli*, and *Spodoptera praefica*, affect a wide range of agricultural crops, and any plant products containing these pests will not be allowed into the EU market.

Recommended Actions

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the WTO can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the EU SPS Enquiry Point until **29 December 2026** (G/SPS/N/EU/987).

Background

The EU has specific phytosanitary rules to prevent the introduction of FCM (*Thaumatotibia leucotreta*) into the EU (Regulation 2019/2072, Annex VII, 62). These requirements apply to peppers (*Capsicum* spp.), peaches and nectarines (*Prunus persica*), pomegranates (*Punica granatum*), certain citrus fruits, and cut roses (*Rosa* spp.) originating from countries of the African continent, the islands of Cabo Verde, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion, and Saint Helena, and Israel. Sweet oranges (*Citrus sinensis*) are subject to separate requirements, including cold treatment (Annex VII, 62.1).

Exporters must comply with one of several phytosanitary options, including production in pest free places or sites of production, or the application of an approved systems approach or post-harvest treatment.

For further information see Exporting fresh Capsicum to the EU, which includes measures against FCM, using fresh peppers as an example.

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Resources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 on the prohibition of introduction, movement, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, as regards protective measures against pests of plants

Sources

Draft Commission Implementing Regulation as regards measures to prevent the entry into the Union territory, and the spread within it, of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*, *Agrilus planipennis*, *Chloridea virescens*, *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* Tropical Race 4, *Hirschmanniella* spp., *Meloidogyne enterolobii*, Raspberry leaf curl virus, *Spodoptera ornithogalli*, *Spodoptera praefica*, Strawberry leaf curl virus, *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*, *Toumeyella parvicornis* and *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *viticola*, and as regards changes of protected zones in relation to Beet necrotic yellow vein virus and *Erwinia amylovora*

Draft Annex

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