

Plant health interceptions (EUROPHYT) in May 2024

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Report on plant health (EUROPHYT) interceptions in May 2024

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

Update

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

In May 2024, there were 86 interceptions due to harmful organisms affecting 25 [AGRINFO partner countries](#), and 254 interceptions due to other non-conformities that affected 34 partner countries.

Impacted products

Plants and plant products

Interceptions

Harmful organisms

In May 2024, there were 86 EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms affecting 25 low- and middle-income (AGRINFO partner) countries (see Table 1).

Other non-conformities

There were also 254 interceptions due to other non-conformities, affecting 34 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](#) (May 2024).

Timeline

May 2024

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 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](#) (May 2024)

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Table & Figures

| Table 1 EUROPHYT interceptions due to harmful organisms on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables, and leaves – May 2024 | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Country of origin | Number of interceptions | Intercepted products | Harmful organisms |
| Bangladesh | 2 | Mango | Fruit flies |
| | | Club gourd | |
| Brazil | 6 | Persian limes | Fungus |
| | | | Scales |
| | | | Bacterias |
| Burkina Faso | 2 | Mango | Fruit flies |
| Cambodia | 1 | Culantro | Whiteflies |
| Cameroon | 8 | Mango | Fruit flies |
| | | Avocado | |
| | | Basil | Whiteflies |
| | | Avocado | False codling moth |
| Colombia | 4 | Persian limes | Fungus |
| | | Mango | Fruit flies |
| | | Peruvian groundcherry | Moths |
| Congo | 5 | Amaranths | Nematodes |
| | | Roselle, Chinese hibiscus, other <i>Hibiscus</i> spp. | |
| | | Sweet potato, other <i>Ipomoea</i> spp. | |
| | | Basil | |
| | | Potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, other Solanaceae spp. | |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 18 | Mango | Fruit flies |
| Egypt | 1 | Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, ...) | Flies |
| Ghana | 1 | Mango | Fruit flies |
| India | 1 | Sapodilla | Fruit flies |
| Indonesia | 3 | Kaffir limes | Fungus |
| | | Black sapote | Fruit flies |
| | | Sapodilla | |
| Kenya | 2 | Sweet and chilli peppers | False codling moth |
| Laos | 1 | Sweet and chilli peppers | Fruit flies |
| Mali | 1 | Mango | Fruit flies |
| Mexico | 4 | Asparagus | Moths |
| | | Sweet and chilli peppers | Fall armyworm |

Continued...

| Table 1 Continued | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Country of origin | Number of interceptions | Intercepted products | Harmful organisms |
| Morocco | 1 | Oval kumquat | Fruit flies |
| Peru | 2 | Asparagus | Fall armyworm |
| | | Persian limes | Fungus |
| Senegal | 8 | Sweet and chilli peppers | Whiteflies |
| | | Sweet and chilli peppers | Fruit flies |
| | | Ethiopian eggplants | Moths |
| | | Ethiopian eggplants | Fall armyworm |
| South Africa | 1 | Bitter oranges | Fungus |
| Sri Lanka | 4 | Angled luffas | Fruit flies |
| | | Snake gourd, pointed gourd, other <i>Trichosanthes</i> spp. | |
| Tanzania | 1 | Bitter melon | Fungus |
| Thailand | 2 | Basil | Whiteflies |
| | | Holy basil | |
| Uganda | 4 | Avocado | Fruit flies |
| | | Common guava | |
| | | Ethiopian eggplants | Moths |
| Vietnam | 3 | Sweet and chilli peppers | Fruit flies |
| | | Mangosteen | Butterflies and moths |
| | | Basil | Thrips |

Source: [EUROPHYT monthly report](#) and [COLEAD dashboards](#)

| Table 2 EUROPHYT interceptions due to other non-conformities on fruit and vegetables, leafy vegetables, and leaves – May 2024 | | |
|--|-------------------------|---|
| Country of origin | Number of interceptions | Intercepted products |
| Bangladesh | 7 | Sweet and chilli peppers, mango, horticultural plants, betel leaves |
| Brazil | 2 | Persian limes |
| Burkina Faso | 3 | Mango |
| Burundi | 1 | Ethiopian eggplants |
| Cameroon | 2 | Sweet potato, basil |
| China | 9 | Common mushrooms, onions, peanut, lychee, mango, bitter melon, Chinese strawberry, cabbages, kales, other Brassica vegetables |
| Colombia | 8 | Garlic, celery, peach palm, sweet oranges, mango, passion fruit, Peruvian ground cherry, ginger |
| Congo | 4 | Amaranths, roselle, Chinese hibiscus, other <i>Hibiscus</i> spp., sweet potato, basil |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 4 | Mango, tamarind Tamarind |
| Cuba | 1 | Mango |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 2 | Taro, sweet potato Sweet potato |
| Dominican Republic | 7 | Chilli pepper, pumpkin, yams, sweet potato, avocado, roselle, Chinese hibiscus, other <i>Hibiscus</i> spp. |
| Ecuador | 8 | Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, ...), avocado, mamey sapote, tamarillo, naranjilla, sweet corn, eucalyptus, guavas |
| Egypt | 46 | Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, ...), mandarin, sweet oranges, peach |
| Ghana | 4 | Okra, potatoes, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, other Solanaceae spp., sweet and chilli peppers, ginger |
| India | 5 | Mango, sapodilla jambolan |
| <i>Continued...</i> | | |

| Table 2 Continued | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Country of origin | Number of interceptions | Intercepted products |
| Indonesia | 2 | Peanut, hazelnuts |
| Iran | 1 | Tomato |
| Kenya | 2 | Sweet and chilli peppers, basil |
| Mali | 3 | Mango |
| Mexico | 3 | Sweet and chilli peppers, tomato |
| Morocco | 7 | Sweet and chilli peppers, sweet oranges, courgettes, pumpkins, other <i>Cucurbita</i> spp., eggplant |
| Nigeria | 1 | African jointfir |
| Pakistan | 5 | Mango, tomato |
| Paraguay | 1 | Persimmon |
| Peru | 39 | Onions, garlic, scallions, shallots, leeks, chives, soursops, cherimoyas, custard apples, sweetsops, asparagus, sweet and chilli peppers, papaya, citrus fruits, caigua, quinces, black sapote, ice cream bean, mango, passion fruit, avocado, lucuma, pomegranate, pitahaya, potatoes, ulluco, broad bean, grapes, sweetcorn |
| Philippines | 3 | Mango |
| Senegal | 12 | Onions, peanuts, sweet and chilli peppers, melons, tomatoes, potatoes, roselle, Chinese hibiscus, other <i>Hibiscus</i> spp. |
| South Africa | 11 | Pomelo, grapefruit, satsumas, bitter oranges, lemons, crookneck pumpkin, European pear |
| Sri Lanka | 33 | Okra, jackfruit, sweet and chilli peppers, papaya, Asiatic pennywort, crookneck pumpkin, mango, bitter melon, curry tree, avocado, beans, horticultural plants, eggplant |
| Thailand | 2 | Galangal, mango |
| Venezuela | 3 | Mango, avocado |
| Vietnam | 12 | Sweet and chilli peppers, pitahaya, lychee, mango, basil, passionfruit, bamboo shoots, plantains |
| Zimbabwe | 1 | Avocado |

Source: [EUROPHYT monthly report](#) and [COLEAD dashboards](#)

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