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).

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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.

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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)

Visit the AGRINFO website to view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & 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 *Hibiscus* spp.	
		Sweet potato, other *Ipomoea* 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

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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 *Trichosanthes* 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

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Source: EUROPHYT monthly report and COLEAD dashboards

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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, basils
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 *Hibiscus* 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 *Hibiscus* 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

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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 *Cucurbita* 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 *Hibiscus* 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

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Source: EUROPHYT monthly report and COLEAD dashboards

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