Revision of plant pest temporary prohibition lists

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EU adds Mexican cabbage head caterpillar and darkling beetle to list of prohibited pests, and extends listing of three pests

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1553 of 9 July 2026 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 as regards the temporary prohibition of introduction into, movement within, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests in the Union territory [third amendment]

Commission Implementing Regulation 2025/356 [second amendment]

Commission Implementing Regulation 2024/1957 [first amendment]

Update

The European Union (EU) has added Mexican cabbage head caterpillar (*Copitarsia decolora*) and darkling beetle (*Lagria villosa*) to its list of prohibited pests, and has extended the listing of three further prohibited pests.

In total, there are now six pests on the EU list of temporarily prohibited plant pests.

Impacted products

Alfalfa, apple, asparagus, aubergine (eggplant), banana/plantain, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, chickpea, citrus, coffee, common bean, cucumber, garlic, grapevine, lettuce, maize, onion, peach, peanut, pear, persimmon, pineapple, potato, rice, sorghum, soyabean, stone fruit, strawberry, sunflower, sweet cherry, tanbark, tea, tobacco, tomato, wheat

What is changing?

The EU regularly updates the list of pests that are temporarily prohibited from introduction into the EU on the basis of available scientific evidence. The list is published in the Annex of Regulation 2022/1941.

July 2026

The new Regulation introduces temporary prohibitions for two additional pests until **30 June 2031**:

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- Mexican cabbage head caterpillar (Copitarsia decolora)
- darkling beetle (Lagria villosa)

The Regulation also extends the existing temporary prohibitions from 31 May 2027 to **31 May 2030** for:

- tobacco budworm (Chloridea virescens)
- Oriental tea tortrix (Homona magnanima)
- yellow-striped armyworm (Spodoptera ornithogalli).

This extension allows additional time to assess whether these pests should be permanently listed as Union quarantine pests.

See Table 1 for the updated list.

February 2025 and July 2024

Snout moth (*Leucinodes pseudorbonalis*) was removed from the list in 2025, following the removal in 2024 of the eggplant fruit and shoot borer (*Leucinodes orbonalis*).

The Oriental tea tortrix (*H. magnanima*) was added to the list in 2024, following its discovery in imported produce intercepted at EU border controls (CABI 2020; JKI 2024).

Why?

Mexican cabbage head caterpillar (*C. decolora*) and darkling beetle (*L. villosa*) have been repeatedly intercepted in consignments of plants and plant products imported into the EU from non-EU countries. They are not known to occur in the EU, and preliminary risk assessments conducted by Spain and the Netherlands (NVWA 2025) concluded that they present a high phytosanitary risk and may meet the criteria for Union quarantine pests. The temporary prohibition will remain in place while complete pest risk assessments are conducted.

The removal of *L. pseudorbonalis* from the list in 2025 followed evaluations by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA 2024a, 2024b).

The list of regulated pests is updated on an ongoing basis according to the most recent scientific evaluations.

Timeline

The revised list of prohibited pests applies from **30 July 2026**.

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Background

Regulation 2022/1941 prohibits the introduction, movement, holding, multiplication, or release of certain pests within the EU territory.

When EU Member States notify the European Commission of the presence in consignments of new pests that are not listed as Union quarantine pests, but pose a significant risk, these pests are temporarily included in the list pending further assessment and potential addition to Annex II of Regulation 2019/2072.

Resources

CABI (2020) *Homona magnanima* (oriental tea tortrix). PlantwisePlus Knowledge Bank.

EFSA (2024a) Pest risk assessment of *Leucinodes orbonalis* for the European Union. EFSA Journal, 22(3): e8498.

EFSA (2024b) Pest risk assessment of African *Leucinodes* species for the European Union. EFSA Journal, 22(4): e8739.

JKI (2024) Express PRA for *Homona magnanima* – Interception. Julius Kühn-Institut, 6 June.

NVWA (2025) Quick scan for *Lagria villosa* (Fabricius, 1781) [download]. Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority [Nederlandse Voedsel-en Warenautoriteit], 27 June.

Regulation (EU) 2024/1957 as regards the prohibition of introduction, movement, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests

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

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards protective measures against pests of plants

Sources

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2026/1553 of 9 July 2026 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 as regards the temporary prohibition of introduction into, movement within, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests in the Union territory [third amendment]

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
List of pests subject to temporary prohibition

Common name	Pest species and EPPO code[1]	Expiry date of prohibition
Citrus fruit midge	*Resseliella citrifrugis* [RESSCI]	31 May 2027 [unchanged]
Darkling beetle	*Lagria villosa* [LAGRVL]	30 June 2031
Mexican cabbage head caterpillar	*Copitarsia decolora* [COPITU]	30 June 2031
Oriental tea tortrix	*Homona magnanima* [HOMOMA]	31 May 2030
Tobacco budworm	*Chloridea virescens* [HELIVI]	31 May 2030
Yellow-striped armyworm	*Spodoptera ornithogalli* [PRODOR]	31 May 2030

1. European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization: www.eppo.int

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Source: based on Regulation 2026/1553 (Annex)

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