Single-use plastic packaging for fresh produce

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Call for data on unprocessed fresh produce packaging: European Food Safety Authority

What is changing and why?

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is collecting information to prepare a scientific opinion on how to implement the ban of single-use plastic packaging for packaged fresh fruit, vegetables, and herbs of less than 1.5 kg.

This ban, which applies from 1 January 2030, will include (for example) nets, bags, trays, and containers and paper-based packaging containing more than 5% plastic.

The European Commission will publish detailed guidelines on how to apply this packaging ban by 12 February 2027. The EFSA scientific opinion will help the Commission prepare these guidelines.

The guidelines will include a non-exhaustive list of single-use plastic packaging that will still be allowed. At the present time, only two exemptions are planned:

- when plastic packaging is necessary to prevent loss of water or liquids, food safety risks, damage, or oxidation
- where there is no other way to separate organic and non-organic fruits and vegetables at the point of sale.

The EFSA survey Call for data on unprocessed fresh produce packaging closed on 30 January 2026.

Timeline

The Commission guidelines will be made available by 12 February 2027.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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