

US: Proposal to allow the importation of blueberries from Morocco

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), is proposing to amend the regulations concerning the importation of fruits and vegetables to allow the importation of fresh blueberry fruit from Morocco into the continental United States.

As a condition of entry, the blueberries would have to be produced under a systems approach employing a combination of mitigation measures for two quarantine pests, *Ceratitis capitata* and *Monilinia fructigena*, and would have to be inspected prior to exportation from Morocco and found free of these pests.

The blueberries would have to be imported in commercial consignments only and would have to be treated with one of two approved postharvest treatments to mitigate the risk of *C. capitata*. The blueberries would also have to be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration stating that the conditions for importation have been met. This action would allow the importation of blueberries from Morocco while continuing to protect against the introduction of plant pests into the United States.

APHIS will consider all comments received on or before March 3, 2014.

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