

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2015-57

NOV 23 2015

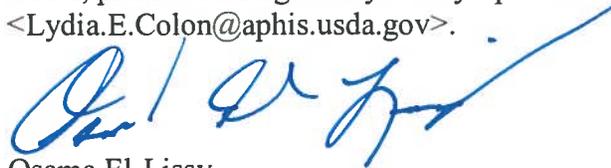
Subject: Federal Order for U.S. Imports of seeds and fruits of mango, (*Mangifera indica*)
hosts of the mango seed weevil (*Sternochetus mangiferae* (*Fabricius*))

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective **DEC 23 2015**, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will expand the import prohibition on mango (*Mangifera indica*) seeds and fruits to include countries where the mango seed weevil is present. To prevent the introduction and establishment of the mango seed weevil in the United States, APHIS determined that it is necessary to prohibit the importation of mango seeds and fruits from Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Martin-Sint Maarten; therefore, these countries are now being added to the list of countries whose mango seeds are prohibited entry to the United States.

The weevil occurs in most countries where mangoes are grown—in Asia, most of Africa, and most countries in Oceania. It is reported to occur with limited distribution in only one South American country (Chile). It is not known to occur in the continental United States, though it occurs in Hawaii. In Central America and the Caribbean, it is known to occur in Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Interceptions in the recent past have shown that the insect occurs in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Martin-Sint Maarten.

APHIS is taking this action to prevent the spread of the mango seed weevil, *Sternochetus mangiferae* (*Fabricius*), into the United States. For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please call Regulatory Policy Specialist Lydia E. Colón at 301-851-2302 or write to her at <Lydia.E.Colon@aphis.usda.gov>.



Osama El-Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

FEDERAL ORDER

Import restrictions for mangoes (*Mangifera indica*) from countries infested with mango seed weevil, *Sternochetus mangiferae* (Fabricius)

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The purpose of this Federal Order (FO) is to prevent the entry or introduction into the continental United States of the mango seed weevil, *Sternochetus mangiferae*, by updating the list of countries infested with the weevil.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). The Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce and the export or import of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act and found in the *Code of Federal Regulations* at 7 CFR 319.1.

The APHIS Administrator determined that the introduction and establishment of the mango seed weevil poses a serious threat to U.S. agriculture. The restrictions to prevent the introduction and establishment of mango seed weevil are needed and warranted to mitigate the plant pest risks associated with imports of mango fruit. This FO imposes updated entry requirements for mangoes entering the continental United States.

The mango seed weevil is a monophagous (feeds on a single kind of plant) pest on mangoes. It is one of the most important mango pests and is widespread in most mango-growing countries. It is a small weevil in the family Curculionidae, order Coleoptera. Adults are capable of surviving long and unfavorable conditions. When no mango fruit is available, adult weevils diapause (lie dormant) under loose bark on mango tree trunks and in branch terminals or in crevices near mango trees. Female weevils lay eggs in the skin of the fruit; and, after hatching, the larva burrows through the flesh of the mango and into the seed. As the fruit and seed develop, the tunnel and seed entry are completely obliterated, so that in time it is impossible to distinguish infested from non-infested mangoes, unless they are cut open. Seed weevil infestation can also cause fruit drop during early fruit development.

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Islands. Interceptions in the recent past show that the insect occurs in Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Maarten-Sint Maarten.

To prevent the entry of the mango seed weevil into the continental United States, APHIS has determined that it is necessary to prohibit the importation of mango seeds and fruits from Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Maarten-Sint Maarten. These countries are now being added to the list of countries whence mango seeds are prohibited entry to the United States. Mango seeds are prohibited from Hawaii into the continental United States, and mango fruit is prohibited from that state unless it is irradiated using a minimum absorbed dose of 300 Gy.

This Federal Order is effective DEC 23 2015.