

Subject: APHIS amends entry requirements for importation of *Fragaria* spp., *Rosa* spp., and *Rubus* spp. plants from Canada into the United States

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective September 14, 2021, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending the entry requirements for the importation of *Fragaria* spp., *Rosa* spp., and *Rubus* spp. plants produced in Canada to prevent the introduction of the strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*) into the United States.

Strawberry blossom weevil is a serious pest of strawberry (*Fragaria* spp.) and raspberry (*Rubus* spp.). Blackberry (*Rubus* spp.) and rose (*Rosa* spp.) are considered occasional hosts. When imported as plants for planting these hosts represent a pathway for the entry of this pest into the United States. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reported strawberry blossom weevil populations being detected in British Columbia, Canada. This detection is the first confirmed report of this pest in North America.

The strawberry blossom weevil females lay eggs in unopened flower buds of their hosts. The female will then chew through the stem just below the bud, and the bud will drop from the plant. Eggs, larvae, and pupae are found inside closed flower buds of host plants. The larvae feed and develop in the "clipped" bud, which will reduce the total number of viable buds on the plant. The lost bud will not be able to produce a fruit once clipped. In Europe, this pest has caused up to 80% loss of the berry crop.

To prevent the introduction of strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*) into the United States, APHIS requires that *Fragaria* spp., *Rosa* spp., and *Rubus* spp. plants for planting produced in Canada must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration stating:

- The plants have been produced and certified by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Canada as a pest-free place of production or a pest free production site for the strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*) following the requirements of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures-10. The shipment has been inspected and found to be free of the strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*).

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Regulatory Specialist Narasimha Chary Samboju at 301-851-2038 or narasimha.c.samboju@usda.gov.



Dr. Osama El-Lissy
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Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

Federal Order

APHIS amends requirements for *Fragaria* spp., *Rosa* spp., and *Rubus* spp. plants for planting from Canada into the United States to prevent the entry of the strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*).

DA-2021-25
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Effective September 14, 2021, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the import entry requirements for *Fragaria* spp., *Rosa* spp., and *Rubus* spp. plants produced in Canada to prevent the introduction of the strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*) into the United States.

Anthonomus rubi (*A. rubi*) is a pest of strawberry (*Fragaria* spp.) and raspberry (*Rubus* spp.). Blackberry (*Rubus* spp.) and rose (*Rosa* spp.) are considered occasional hosts. These hosts imported as plants for planting represent a pathway for introduction of this pest into the United States. Strawberry blossom weevil was first reported to APHIS in September 2020 by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). CFIA detected established *A. rubi* populations in British Columbia, Canada. This is the first confirmed report of this pest in North America.

The strawberry blossom weevil females lay eggs in unopened flower buds of their hosts. The female will then chew through the stem just below the bud, and the bud will drop from the plant. Eggs, larvae, and pupae are found inside closed flower buds of host plants. The larvae feed and develop in the “clipped” bud, which will reduce the total number of viable buds on the plant. The lost bud will not be able to produce a fruit once clipped. In Europe, this pest has caused up to 80% loss of the berry crop.

Current regulations require *Rubus* spp. plants from Canada to be imported into the United States with an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate to declare that plants have been inspected and are free of *Rubus* stunt phytoplasma, or the plants must enter through the APHIS Postentry Quarantine program. *Fragaria* spp. and *Rosa* spp. plants for planting from Canada require a phytosanitary certificate if not produced through the United States-Canada Greenhouse Grown Plant Certification Program (GCP) or the Canadian Nursery Certification Program (CNCP).

This Federal Order modifies the entry requirements for *Fragaria* spp., *Rosa* spp., and *Rubus* spp. plants for planting from Canada. *Fragaria* spp. and *Rosa* spp. plants for planting from Canada imported under the GCP and the CNCP will be allowed only after implementation of the pest module for *Anthonomus rubi*.

Plants imported outside the GCP and CNCP program from Canada must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration certifying that the plants in the shipment fulfill the following requirements prior to importation into the United States and territories:

- The plants have been produced and certified by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of Canada as a pest-free place of production or a pest free production site for the strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*) following the requirements of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures-10. The shipment has been inspected and found to be free of the strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*).

Fragaria spp., *Rosa* spp., and *Rubus* spp. plants for planting shipments imported from Canada, that arrive into the United States without the required phytosanitary certificate and additional declaration will be rejected. This action is necessary because the APHIS Administrator has determined that the introduction and establishment of the strawberry blossom weevil poses a serious threat to agriculture in the United States.

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). Under the Act, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by 7 U.S.C. 7754 allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Senior Regulatory Specialist Narasimha Chary Samboju, at 301-851-2038 or narasimha.c.samboju@usda.gov.