

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2021-34
November 22, 2021

Subject: Restrictions on Potatoes and Soil from Prince Edward Island, Canada due to Potato Wart

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

On November 5, 2021, I wrote to you to share information regarding the potato wart situation on Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada. Due to the confirmation of potato wart in two separate fields of potatoes intended for processing (331 acres) in PEI, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) agreed to suspend seed potato shipments to the United States. This soil-borne disease of potatoes is caused by a fungus, *Synchytrium endobioticum*, and seed potatoes are one of the known pathways for its spread.

Today, I am writing to share further information regarding the importation of potatoes and other regulated articles from PEI. CFIA informed the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that they are stopping certification of all potatoes from PEI as they continue their investigation regarding the new October 2021 detections of potato wart. Additionally, APHIS is prohibiting the importation of soil from PEI and requiring used farm machinery, farm tools, and farming equipment imported from PEI to be clean and free from soil. APHIS is requesting the Department of Homeland's Security Customs and Border Protection to implement these restrictions at midnight tonight, November 22, 2021.

APHIS is coordinating with CFIA as they carry out their assessment of potato wart in PEI. APHIS will use information from the CFIA investigation to determine if restrictions can be removed or if additional safeguarding measures are necessary.

I want to assure you that safeguarding U.S. potato production against potato wart is a top priority for APHIS. We will continue to update you as we receive additional information.

Information on potato wart is available on the following websites:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/nematode/potato/ct_potatowart

[North American Plant Protection Organization \(NAPPO\) Official Pest Report
https://www.pestalerts.org/official-pest-report/new-report-potato-wart-synchytrium-endobioticum-prince-edward-island-canada-1](https://www.pestalerts.org/official-pest-report/new-report-potato-wart-synchytrium-endobioticum-prince-edward-island-canada-1)

For additional information, please contact PPQ Imports, Regulations, and Manuals Director Dr. Andrea Huberty at (301) 851-2881 or andrea.f.huberty@usda.gov.

/s/

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