



Plant Protection and Quarantine

Through its Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) protects our Nation's agriculture and natural resources from invasive pests and diseases. This work promotes a healthy, abundant food supply for all Americans and a diverse natural ecosystem.

Safeguarding America's Agriculture

Agriculture is our country's largest industry and employer, adding more than \$330 billion to the economy, supporting 1 in 12 U.S. jobs, and providing American consumers with more than 80 percent of the food they eat. To protect this vital sector, PPQ:

- Carries out survey, detection, and response efforts to conserve our agricultural resources
- Detects and responds to pest and disease outbreaks to eliminate them or prevent them from spreading
- Partners with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection to inspect cargo, commercial vessels, and international passenger baggage and seize foreign agricultural pests before they can enter the country
- Carries out anti-smuggling activities to detect products that have entered the country unlawfully and pose a plant health risk
- Conducts activities offshore to fight pests and diseases in other countries before they have a chance to spread to the United States

PPQ safeguards billions of dollars in U.S. agricultural products and protects nearly 600 million acres of forestland, rangelands, and other working lands from potentially devastating pests and diseases.

- Partners with the U.S. Department of Defense to inspect military cargo, conveyances, and household goods in the country of origin to prevent the movement of soil, foreign animal diseases, and plant pests to our country
- Helps other countries develop robust pest control efforts to stop plant health threats at their source
- Issues permits for the safe import and transit of plants and products derived from plants, organisms, and soil
- Analyzes pest data to learn how potentially devastating plant pests and diseases could enter the country and spread
- Develops scientifically advanced, environmentally sound methods to respond to plant health threats



Facilitating Safe Trade

International trade in agricultural products helps feed the world and adds hundreds of billions of dollars to the global economy. As America's National Plant Protection Organization, PPQ helps ensure that billions of dollars of agricultural commodities are traded safely each year without moving invasive pests and diseases. This work strengthens the U.S. economy while protecting our agricultural and natural resources from foreign pests and diseases. PPQ:

- Leads the development of international plant health standards that ensure safe and fair global trade
- Works with trading partners to eliminate unjustified plant health barriers to U.S. products
- Creates and expands markets for U.S. producers by having technical discussions with other nations to resolve plant health issues
- Assists American farmers and exporters by inspecting and certifying plants and plant products being shipped to foreign countries
- Assesses plant pest risks associated with each commodity import request and determines admissibility and import requirements
- Approves other countries' new import commodity requests if the products can be imported safely
- Helps resolve issues holding up cargo at U.S. and foreign ports

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