

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2026-28

August 21, 2026

Subject: APHIS amends entry requirements for importation of potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) from Prince Edward Island, Canada to prevent introduction of the potato wart pathogen *Synchytrium endobioticum*

To: State and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective October 5, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending its requirements for the importation of potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) from Prince Edward Island (PEI), Canada to prevent the introduction of potato wart (causal agent *Synchytrium endobioticum*) into the United States.

Potato wart (PW) is regulated by APHIS as a Select Agent. PW is known to affect only the domesticated potato (*S. tuberosum*) and wild potato species (*Solanum* spp.). The fungus overwinters in the soil as spores that may remain viable for over 40 years in the absence of a host plant. The spores can survive a wide range of environmental conditions, including conditions in storage and transport. A low level of resting spores in tubers or soil is sufficient for the establishment and spread of the pathogen. The movement of infected potato tubers and contaminated soil are documented as important pathways for the introduction of *S. endobioticum* to new areas. There are no treatments available to control PW.

PW was first reported in a processing potato field in PEI in 2000. Since that initial detection, *S. endobioticum* had been detected in PEI in a total of thirty-eight fields. In 2021, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) reported two new PW infestations, which resulted in Canada's issuance of a Ministerial Order that suspended the certification of potato exports from PEI to the United States. Canada then requested that APHIS allow the resumption of potato imports under new conditions given the latest detections and subsequent confirmatory analysis in February 2022; APHIS issued Federal Order DA-2022-14 in response. In April 2026, the CFIA reported a new PW detection in PEI.

Given the most recent detection of PW in PEI, APHIS reviewed Federal Order DA-2022-14, as well as import data associated with shipments of potatoes from PEI. APHIS determined that additional measures are warranted to address the risk posed by potatoes that are imported in bulk into the United States and moved to facilities for processing, packaging or repackaging. The waste associated with processing, packaging or repackaging can represent a pathway for PW introduction into the United States.

To prevent the introduction of *S. endobioticum* into the United States, APHIS is superseding Federal Order DA-2022-14 with Federal Order DA-2026-28. Federal Order DA-2026-28 adds new requirements for potatoes from PEI imported into the United States. Specifically, importation of bulk shipments (containers 50 lbs or larger) of potatoes from PEI will be allowed only to U.S. facilities that have signed a compliance agreement with APHIS and agreed to specific conditions to address waste produced during processing, packaging, or repackaging. Also, APHIS is enhancing the labeling requirements for shipments to enable full traceability back to the production site and the packing shed of origin, including for potato shipments that have been repackaged in the United States. APHIS is maintaining the U.S. No.

1 grade standard with the exception of the tuber size limitation. Finally, APHIS is prohibiting the repurposing of potatoes imported for consumption as seed potatoes. This Federal Order DA-2026-28 is effective as of October 5, 2026. The Federal Order DA-2022-14 remains in effect until that date.

APHIS has determined these additional measures are needed to enhance safeguarding requirements for potatoes imported from PEI, Canada.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Rhoads', with a stylized, wavy line extending from the end.

Matthew Rhoads
Deputy Administrator
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 entry requirements for importation of potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*) from Prince Edward Island, Canada to prevent introduction of the potato wart pathogen *Synchytrium endobioticum*

DA-2026-28
August 21, 2026

Effective October 5, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending the importation requirements for potatoes from Prince Edward Island (PEI) in Canada to prevent the introduction of potato wart (causal agent *Synchytrium endobioticum*) into the United States. *Synchytrium endobioticum* is a harmful pest that could spread via potato commodities imported from foreign countries where this pest is known to occur.

Synchytrium endobioticum is regulated by APHIS as a Select Agent. Potato wart is known to naturally infect the domesticated potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) and wild potato species (*Solanum* spp.). There are no chemical or non-chemical treatments available to control potato wart. Potato wart was first reported in a processing potato field in PEI in 2000. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) established a quarantine of the infested field (index field) and identified the associated fields (adjacent, primary contact, and other contact fields) based on proximity to the index field, and shared equipment, soil, and/or potato tubers. In 2025, CFIA implemented the National Potato Wart Response Plan that shifted focus from just PEI to the entire country of Canada and updated field categories and phytosanitary measures. Since the initial detection, *S. endobioticum* has been detected in multiple locations in PEI. Most recently, in April 2026, potato wart was detected via tare soil sampling, identifying a new index field in PEI.

This Import Federal Order supersedes DA-2022-14, and updates import requirements for potatoes from PEI into the United States.

1. Potatoes from PEI for consumption may only be imported subject to the following requirements:

- a) Potatoes must not originate from any fields restricted by CFIA as index fields, adjacent fields, primary contact fields, secondary contact fields, and fields of concern for *S. endobioticum* as defined in Canada's National Potato Wart Response Plan (CFIA, 2025).
- b) Certified seed potatoes which were planted to produce potatoes for consumption must not originate from fields CFIA restricted for potato wart as index fields, adjacent fields, primary contact fields, secondary contact fields, and fields of concern for *S. endobioticum*.

- c) Potatoes must meet all requirements of the U.S. No. 1 grade standard¹ except the size requirement.
- d) The potatoes must be washed with a forced stream of water to eliminate adhering soil, including caked soil prior to export. Additional methods such as brushing and rinsing may be required to ensure the potatoes are free of soil.
- e) Potatoes must be treated with a sprout inhibitor that is registered with the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency.
- f) Consignments must be accompanied by a statement on the export documentation detailing the treatment including the date of sprout inhibitor application and product used.
- g) All potato shipments must have traceability from production site to packinghouse through export to allow a full trace-back and recall.
- h) Each consignment must be inspected and accompanied by a certificate issued by CFIA and approved by APHIS stating that the potatoes for consumption are free of quarantine pests for the United States. This inspection should take place after the potatoes are washed, and any suspect infected potatoes should be reported to CFIA. Shipments with suspect tubers cannot be certified until confirmed free of potato wart. The Canadian certificate must include an Additional Declaration that states: “The potatoes in this shipment were grown in a field where potato wart is not known to occur and meet all requirements of the USDA Federal Order DA-2026-28.”
- i) Each consignment is subject to inspection at the port of entry into the United States. Potatoes must be free of soil upon inspection at the port of entry.
- j) Any potatoes imported from PEI for consumption must not be used as seed potatoes.

2. Seed potatoes grown in the ground for planting are prohibited entry into the United States.

3. *In vitro* plantlets, micro-tubers, and mini-tubers for planting are allowed entry but require a permit issued in compliance with 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §319.6.

This Federal Order adds the following additional restrictions for potatoes imported for processing, packaging or repackaging for human consumption or for animal feed:

4. Cull potatoes and potato waste generated from processing, packaging or repackaging are prohibited from use as animal feed. Potato waste should not be incorporated into agricultural production fields where potatoes or other crops are grown - this material must be disposed of at an APHIS-approved disposal site.

¹ U.S. No. 1 grade standard of potatoes must meet the following requirements: similar varietal characteristics (except when designated as a mixed or specialty pack); firm; fairly clean; fairly well shaped; free from freezing, blackheart, late blight, southern bacterial wilt, ring rot, soft rot, and wet breakdown; free from serious damage by any other cause; and not less than 1.875 inches in diameter.

5. Shipments of bulk* potatoes for processing, packaging or repackaging that are consigned to the United States must be shipped to an APHIS-approved facility with an APHIS compliance agreement (PPQ 519).

- A representative of the facility who enters into the compliance agreement, and employees and/or agents of that facility, must comply with the conditions listed in the compliance agreement, which are deemed by the Administrator to be necessary to prevent the introduction of potato wart into the United States.

**For the purposes of this Federal Order, “bulk shipment” refers to potatoes held in a container with a capacity of 22.7 kg (50 lbs) or more that is intended for processing, packaging or repackaging.*

6. Importation of cull potatoes from PEI for use as animal feed or any other purpose is prohibited.

7. For potatoes shipped in containers under 22.7 kg (50 lbs) that are repackaged in the United States, the U.S. importer conducting the repackaging operation (i.e., transferring potatoes from one container into another format or size for retail sale, storage, or transit) must maintain the identity from each shipment. Each shipment must carry a unique identifier that provides full traceability back to the production site and packing shed of origin, and to the exporter. The unique identifier must be linked to the Canadian production identifier listed on the official Canadian certificate and must appear on all shipping units (packages).

This action is necessary because APHIS has determined that the entry and establishment of *S. endobioticum* 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 of a plant pest 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 Policy Specialist Dr. Narasimha Chary Samboju at 301-851-2038 or narasimha.c.samboju@usda.gov.