agriculture
Department:
Agriculture
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PHYTOSANITARY WORKPLAN FOR THE IMPORTATION OF BLUEBERRY (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L., *V. virginatum* Aiton, and *V. corymbosum* hybrids) FRESH FRUIT FROM THE EXPORT AREAS OF CALIFORNIA AND THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST (PNW) STATES OF WASHINGTON AND OREGON IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA) TO SOUTH AFRICA

In order to safely export Blueberry fresh fruit (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L., *V. virginatum* Aiton, and *V. corymbosum* hybrids) from the export areas of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) States of Washington, California, and Oregon in the United States of America (USA) to the Republic of South Africa (RSA), the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) of United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the USDA-APHIS) and the South African Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as the NPPOZA), on the basis of pest risk analysis (PRA), exchanged views and reached consensus as follows:

1. ADDITIONAL DECLARATION ON THE PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE:

1.1. “The fruit in this consignment have been produced and packed in accordance with the import phytosanitary workplan agreed upon between NPPOZA and USDA-APHIS.”

2. REGISTRATION AND APPROVAL OF PACKING FACILITIES

2.1. Blueberry fresh fruit for export to South Africa shall originate from facilities (Packhouses) that are registered and approved by the USDA-APHIS. Registered packing houses will maintain a list of production fields designated to produce blueberry fruits for export to South Africa and must have a system in place to ensure that all fruits can be traced to the supplying production field.

2.1.1 The list/database of the registered facilities that have been approved for export of fresh blueberry fruit to South Africa must contain the name and address of each packing house.

2.2. The list/database of the registered facilities that have been inspected and approved by the USDA-APHIS for export of fresh blueberry fruit to South Africa shall be made available to the National Plant Protection Organization of South Africa (NPPOZA) annually, at least four weeks prior to the departure of the first consignment. The NPPOZA shall assess the list/database and the approved facilities will be updated on the NPPOZA website and the NPPOZA shall immediately notify the USDA-APHIS of this update.

3. PRE-HARVEST PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND GENERAL SURVEILLANCE

3.1. The USDA-APHIS or APHIS-authorized official shall be responsible for inspection before approval of Packhouses. Each grower must be engaged in compliance with standards that meet or exceed Global GAP or equivalent.

3.2. The USDA-APHIS or APHIS-authorized official shall inform growers of pest surveillance and / or monitoring and according to international standards and Integrated Pest Management practices and inform growers about the list of quarantine pests of concern for South Africa listed in annexure 1 and addendum A. Upon request surveillance and control records/data shall be made available to the NPPOZA.

3.3. During the growing season, growers shall conduct regular monitoring of quarantine pests in production sites and records shall be maintained. The targets of monitoring will include leaves, stems, flowers, and fruits. The monitoring and control records will be made available to USDA-APHIS or APHIS-authorized officials upon request. When a quarantine pest of concern for South Africa is detected at a production site, immediate corrective measures shall be taken.

3.4. Growers shall undertake relevant pest control measures against pests listed in Annexure 1:

3.5. Pest control, inspection, and other relevant records and information shall be made available for review upon request by the NPPOZA.

3.6. Growers shall undertake specific pre-harvest risk mitigation measures for *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted winged drosophila) in accordance with IPM guidelines.

3.6.1. These measures should include the weekly monitoring of fields for the presence of larvae in fruit and, in the event of a detection, the repeat application of insecticides as soon as fruit is susceptible (beginning to turn from green to pink).

3.6.2. If spotted winged drosophila adults have been detected in the production field, once fruit is susceptible to infestation, the production field must be monitored at least weekly by a trained pest consultant or by a trained person under the supervision of a pest consultant, to determine the presence of spotted winged drosophila larvae in fruit.

3.6.3. Fruit will be sampled and inspected following an approved fruit extraction method using coffee filter with solution of brown sugar or salt and water.

3.6.4. The dates and results of the monitoring must be recorded and provided to the packing facility prior to or at the time of the harvest of any blueberries potentially destined for export to South Africa.

3.6.5. Fruit from production fields with detections of spotted winged drosophila larvae may not be packed for export to South Africa, unless the production fields have been treated with an appropriate insecticide and subsequent post-harvest fruit sampling in those fields confirms that fruits are free from larvae. Pest control, inspection, and other relevant records and information shall be made available for review upon request by the NPPOZA.

4. POST-HARVEST MEASURES

4.1 Growers shall undertake specific post-harvest risk mitigation measures for *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted winged drosophila).

4.1.1. These measures should include fruit sampling and inspection using a fruit extraction method to confirm freedom from larvae:

i. A representative sample of fruit will be collected randomly from each load of fruit readied and packed for export at the packing facility.

ii. Each sample will consist of a minimum of 1 liter (approx. 1.4 lbs/0.6 kg.) of fruit.

iii. Each fruit sample will be subjected to an approved fruit extraction method (i.e. coffee filter used with either a brown sugar or salt water flotation test) to confirm freedom from *Drosophila suzukii* larvae.

iv. Either coffee filter with concentrated sugar or salt solution may be used. See the following for examples of solution composition:

- Sugar solution: Dissolve 7.7 lbs/3.5 kg of brown sugar in 20 liters of water. The resulting solution should have a brix reading of at least 15.

- Salt solution: Dissolve 1 liter of salt in 16 liters of water.

v. Samples will be tested as soon as possible after the fruit arrives at the packing facility.

vi. Packing facilities must have a designated area for fruit testing with good lighting and appropriate equipment and materials.

vii. The solution must be carefully inspected for larvae. An example of the inspection process may be found in “A Detailed Guide for Testing Fruit for the Presence of Spotted Winged Drosophila (SWD) Larvae” located at: https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9096

viii. Inspections must be conducted by trained packing facility staff or an APHIS approved regulatory official.

ix. Any larvae detected must be collected and identified by an APHIS approved regulatory official.

x. The results of each fruit sample inspection must be documented on a form provided by APHIS (an equivalent document may be used if approved by APHIS).

xi. If any larvae of *Drosophila suzukii* is detected during this fruit sampling, fruit from that lot will not be eligible to pack for export to South Africa.

xii. A copy of the inspection results confirming that all lots in the consignment were found to be free of larvae of *Drosophila suzukii* must be provided to APHIS and/or the APHIS cooperator with the request for phytosanitary inspection.

4.2. Fruit shall be appropriately packed, stored, and transported so as to safeguard against consignment contamination with quarantine pests of concern to South Africa.

4.3. Cold temperatures, below 35°F (1.67 °C) are to be maintained during the shipping process.

4.4 The USDA-APHIS shall conduct official visual inspection using a sampling scheme able to identify with at least 95% reliability at a level of infection of 0,5% or above in accordance with ISPM 31: *Methodologies for sampling of consignments* (FAO, 2008). Suspect fruit (such as fruit which are soft, deformed, or exhibiting signs of feeding damage) will be cut and inspected for internal feeding larvae)

4.5. Fruit shall be practically free from leaves and plant debris.

4.6. The registered facilities shall be maintained clean and practically free of pests, soil, and plant debris; safeguarded and equipped to avoid fruit contamination.

4.7. All fresh blueberries destined for South Africa shall be packed in new and clean carton boxes.

4.8. No packaging material of plant origin, including straw, shall be used.

4.9. Should wood packaging material be used, it shall comply with ISPM 15: *Regulation of wood packaging material in international trade* (FAO, 2013).

5. MARKING REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Each carton of fresh blueberry fruit shall be marked in English with correct and accurate information as indicated in Annexure 2.

6. SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT REGULATIONS

6.1. Importation of controlled goods into the Republic of South Africa is regulated in terms of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No. 36 of 1983) as amended and an import permit is required in terms of this Act and associated Regulations R.111 of 27 January 1984 as amended.

7. PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION

7.1. Upon completion of sampling and inspection of the fresh blueberry fruit destined to South Africa, a Phytosanitary Certificate shall be issued by the USDA-APHIS or APHIS-authorized inspector prior to shipment. Entry of the consignment to South Africa shall be subject to the availability of the original Phytosanitary Certificate. A Phytosanitary Certificate shall only be issued for fresh blueberry fruit that meets the requirements as stipulated in this phytosanitary workplan.

8. PHYTOSANITARY INSPECTION ON ARRIVAL

8.1. Once a shipment of fresh blueberry fruit arrives at the designated port of entry in terms of the Agricultural Pests Act, 1983 (Act No.36 of 1983), the NPPOZA shall examine the relevant documents, consignment, and marking requirements.

8.2. Any consignment with certification that does not conform to the specifications set out in this phytosanitary workplan for fresh blueberry fruit from the United States to South Africa, the NPPOZA shall reject the consignment. The NPPOZA shall immediately notify the USDA-APHIS in accordance with the notification procedure outlined in ISPM 13: *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action* (FAO, 2001). The two NPPOs shall consult and implement corrective measures as deemed necessary.

8.3. A representative sample shall be drawn and inspected for quarantine pests of concern to South Africa and suspect fruit shall be dissected to determine the status of infestation.

8.4. Should any pest that is not listed in Addendum A be detected on blueberry fresh fruit from the USA, it shall require assessment to determine its quarantine status and whether phytosanitary action is required. The detection of any pest of potential quarantine concern not already identified in the analysis may result in a review of this phytosanitary workplan to ensure that the phytosanitary measures provide the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) deemed necessary for South Africa.

8.5. The importer is responsible for all costs relating to disposal, removal, or rerouting of the consignment, including costs incurred by the NPPOZA to monitor the action taken.

8.6. In cases of non-compliance to the conditions set out in this phytosanitary workplan for fresh blueberry fruit from the United States to South Africa, NPPOZA shall immediately notify the USDA-APHIS in accordance with the notification procedure outlined in ISPM 13: *Guidelines for the notification of non-compliance and emergency action* (FAO, 2001). The two NPPOs shall consult and implement corrective measures as deemed necessary.

9. OFFICIAL VISITS BY NPPOZA

9.1. After program initiation, when necessary (i.e., in light of any significant changes in pest status and/or detections of quarantine pests on arrival), and agreed by both parties, the NPPOZA may send quarantine officials to USDA to conduct on-site inspections/audits.

9.2. Based on the official documents and technical information provided by USDA and the report of the South African experts, the NPPOZA may approve amendments of this program as deemed necessary.

9.3. The expenses for all official visits will be funded by USA, including daily allowance according to prevailing rate.

ANNEXURE 1: PEST OF CONCERN TO SOUTH AFRICA

Alternaria parvicaespitosa
Botrytis californica
Colletotrichum fioriniae
Diaporthe vaccinii
Drosophila suzukii
Monilinia urnula
Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi
Pestalotia vaccnii
Pestalotiopsis microspora
Phoma vaccinii
Phyllosticta vaccinii
Strasseria oxycocci

ANNEXURE 2: MARKING REQUIREMENTS

Country of origin **Production Site name or grower lot number** **Packing facility name**
For the Republic of South Africa

ADDENDUM A: NATIONAL QUARANTINE PESTS LIST OF BLUEBERRY (*Vaccinium corymbosum* L., *V. virginatum* Aiton, and *V. corymbosum* hybrids) FRESH FRUIT FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Fungi:
Alternaria parvicaespitosa
Botrytis californica
Colletotrichum fioriniae
Colletotrichum salicis
Diaporthe vaccinii
Exobasidium maculosum
Gloeosporium minus
Monilinia fructigena
Monilinia urnula
Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi
Pestalotia vaccinii
Pestalotiopsis microspora
Phoma vaccinii
Phyllosticta vaccinii
Strasseria oxycocci

Mites:
Eotetranychus carpini borealis [Tetranychidae]

Insects:
Abgrallaspis cyanophylli [Diaspididae]
Acrobasis vaccinii [Pyralidae]
Archips argyrospila [Tortricidae]
Argyrotaenia fransciscana [Totricidae]
Argyrotaenia velutinana [Tortricidae]
Choristoneura rosaceana [Tortricidae]
Conotrachelus nenuphar [Curculionidae]
Ctenopseustis herana [Tortricidae]
Ctenopseustis obliquana [Tortricidae]
Diabrotica speciosa [Chrysomelidae]
Diaspidiotus ostreaeformis [Diaspididae]
Drosophila suzukii [Drosophilidae]
Epiphyas postvittana [Tortricidae]
Grapholita packardi [Tortricidae]
Halyomorpha halys [Pentatomidae]
Lobesia botrana [Tortricidae]
Rhagoletis mendax [Tephritidae]
Pseudococcus maritimus [Pseudococcidae]