



United States Department of Agriculture

# U.S. Specialty Crops Trade Issues Report

Fiscal Year 2021

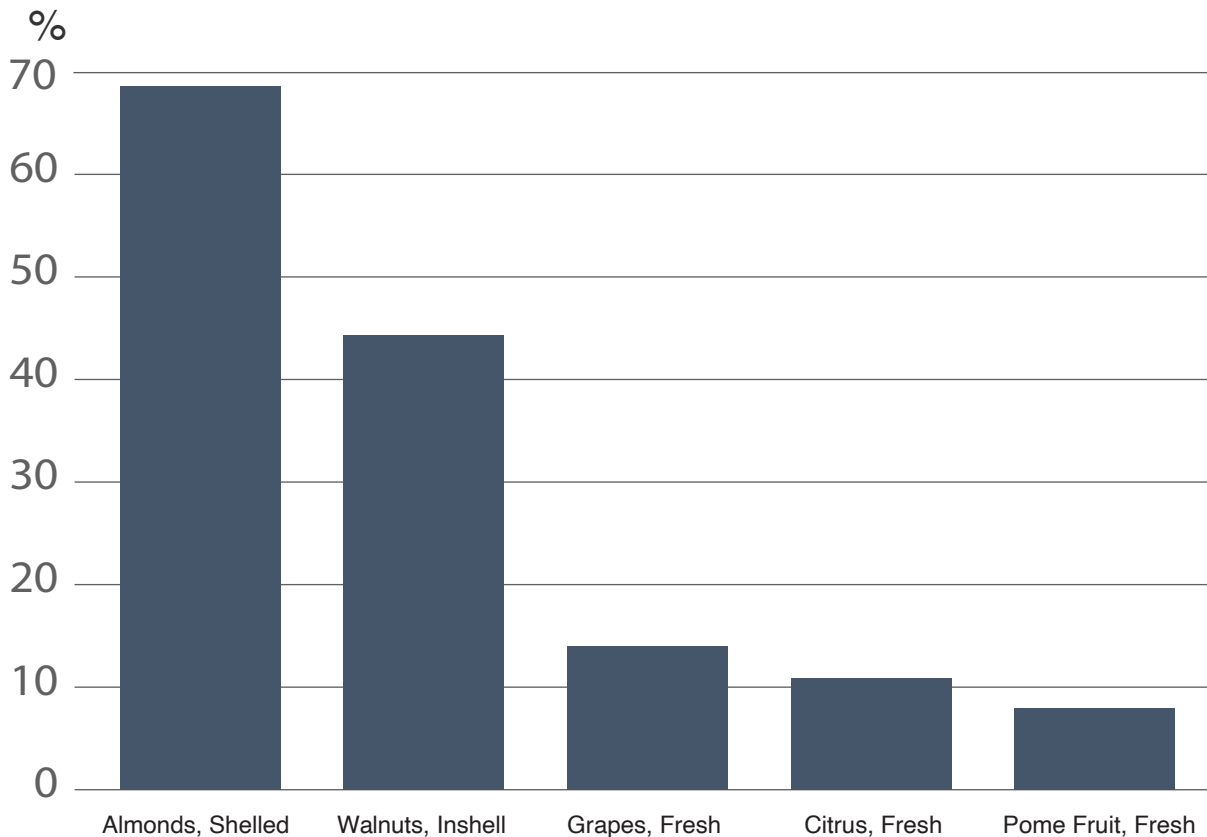
# Contents

<b>Foreward</b> .....	1
<b>USDA’S Role in Facilitating Trade in U.S. Specialty Crops</b> .....	2
Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) .....	2
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) .....	2
Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) .....	3
Agricultural Research Service (ARS) .....	3
<b>Interagency Response to Technical Non-Tariff Barriers</b> .....	3
<b>Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program Overview</b> .....	3
<b>Trade Summary: U.S. Specialty Crop Exports in 2021</b> .....	5
<b>Global Import Restrictions for Wine</b> .....	6
<b>2021 Success Stories</b> .....	6
<b>Trade Issues Summary (By Region)</b> .....	7

# Foreword

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is pleased to provide the 2021 U.S. Specialty Crops Trade Issues Report to the U.S. Congress. This report is provided as required under Section 203(e)(7) of the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5623) as amended by the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (PL 115-34). The statute states “Each year, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that contains, for the period covered by the report, a description of— (A) each factor that affects the export of specialty crops, including each factor relating to any— (i) significant sanitary or phytosanitary issue; (ii) trade barrier; or (iii) emerging sanitary or phytosanitary issue or trade barrier; and (B)(i) any funds provided under subsection (f)(3)(A)(iv) that were not obligated in a fiscal year; and (ii) the reason such funds were not obligated.” For this publication, “specialty crops” are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticultural crops, wine, and nursery crops.

**Chart 1: U.S. Specialty Crops Groups with Largest Exports as a Share of Production**



Source: USDA - FAS Global Agricultural Trade System (GATS)

U.S. exports of specialty crops reached \$24.9 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2021, accounting for 14.5 percent of total U.S. agricultural exports. Tree nuts represented more than 35 percent of FY 2021 specialty crop exports.

Foreign market access helps the U.S. specialty crop industry thrive and supports the livelihood of those on farms and in related industries. Chart 1 demonstrates the dependency select specialty crops have on the export market.

The Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and its USDA partners are committed to expanding export opportunities for the U.S. specialty crop sector. This report meets the requirements stated above to describe market access barriers confronting producers and exporters. USDA works with U.S. agricultural industry groups, U.S. regulatory agencies, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to open, expand, and maintain access for U.S. specialty crop products to export markets. This report also highlights USDA and the U.S. agricultural industry efforts and resources to facilitate U.S. specialty crop exports. Cooperation between USDA and the U.S. agricultural industry is not only important for maintaining existing export markets, but also for establishing new markets for U.S. products. Market access, expansion, and retention successes are outlined in this report.

Trade barriers such as burdensome requirements related to pre-export plant health inspections, low or missing pesticide maximum residue levels, labeling, or quality certification may discourage some U.S. specialty crop producers from shipping products overseas. However, USDA is committed to assisting U.S. agricultural stakeholders to overcome trade barriers that deter U.S. specialty crop exporters and help them compete in the global marketplace. USDA uses the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) program, which allocates funds to public and private sector stakeholders, to address barriers to exports of specialty crops. In FY 2021, FAS funded 15 TASC projects for a total of \$7,182,146.

## **USDA's Role in Facilitating Trade in U.S. Specialty Crops**

### **Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS)**

FAS maintains a global network of nearly 100 offices covering approximately 180 countries. These offices provide unbiased public information on foreign markets, develop relationships with foreign governments and importers to solve emerging problems, and advise Washington agencies and U.S. industry on strategies to support U.S. exports. FAS leads the U.S. interagency review of new foreign regulations, participates actively in trade negotiations, and partners with USTR to enforce U.S. rights under existing trade agreements and international commitments.

### **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**

APHIS is responsible for safeguarding the health and value of U.S. agriculture, including domestic and international export markets. APHIS conducts science-based technical negotiations to open, expand, and maintain export markets, thereby ensuring that U.S. agricultural exports are protected from unjustified barriers. APHIS also develops and coordinates U.S. phytosanitary export policies and export protocols implemented by APHIS and by state and county regulators, facilitating exports of U.S. agricultural products around the world. In addition, APHIS supports U.S. specialty crop exports via its network of attachés in key export markets, by maintaining offices at vital U.S. export facilities, and through exotic fruit fly exclusion and detection activities. One of the agency's key strategies is maintaining a barrier against the spread of the Mediterranean fruit fly northward from Central America to protect domestic crop production and maintain export market access for U.S. specialty and other crop exports.

## **Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS)**

AMS programs facilitate the efficient marketing of U.S. agricultural products. AMS certification, auditing, inspection, and laboratory analysis services are effective tools for demonstrating that exported products comply with quality requirements in foreign markets. AMS also plays a key role in regulating and providing guidance on the certification, production, handling, and labeling of USDA organic products. Organic equivalency agreements eliminate additional certification burdens on producers and facilitate the trade of organic specialty crops.

## **Agricultural Research Service (ARS)**

By researching and understanding the biology and ecology of insects and noxious weeds, ARS develops technologies to manage pest populations, thus continuing to help open and maintain access to export markets for U.S. specialty crop industries.

# **Interagency Response to Technical Non-Tariff Barriers**

Barriers to U.S. specialty crop exports can be complex, and the U.S. government's response is generally formulated within an interagency context. USDA representatives abroad often receive information on pending regulations before those measures are formally notified to the World Trade Organization (WTO) for international public consultation. USDA and other relevant agencies can then engage with trading partners on proposed regulations at an early stage. FAS leads an interagency review process to provide formal comments on certain measures notified by member countries to the WTO.

U.S. regulatory agencies, including APHIS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are involved in establishing international standards related to food safety, environmental impacts, and plant health that directly affect U.S. specialty crop exports. U.S. officials, led by the United States Codex Office (USCO), participate in the development of international food safety and commodity standards, with FAS and USCO working together and with the interagency to build support for U.S. policy positions. International standards developed by the joint World Health Organization /Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Codex Alimentarius Commission, International Plant Protection Convention), and the World Animal Health Organization often serve as the basis for national sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations adopted by many trading partners. USDA and USTR often encourage U.S. trading partners to consider these international standards when developing their own regulations, to facilitate trade while protecting plant and animal health and ensuring food safety. USDA capacity building programs reinforce this message and help countries build the technical capacity needed to meet their international obligations.

# **Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program Overview**

Congress authorized the establishment of the TASC program under the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, which directed the Secretary of Agriculture to operate the program through FY 2007 using funds from USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. USDA established the program to address unique barriers that

prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops by providing for public- and private-sector projects. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 first reauthorized the TASC program. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334) most recently reauthorized the program for fiscal years 2019-2023.

FAS operates the current TASC program to fund projects that address existing and potential SPS and technical barriers to trade measures that may affect U.S. specialty crop exports. Activities must benefit the industry at large rather than a specific company, and applicants must provide a clear strategy for overcoming trade barriers and market access issues. Any U.S. organization, private or public, with a demonstrated role or interest in exporting U.S. specialty crops may apply for TASC funding. In line with the changes to the program made in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), awards will generally be granted for a project period not exceeding five years, with the opportunity for an extension based on a determination of the effectiveness of continued funding.

FAS provides potential program participants with TASC funding availability through an annual announcement on Grants.gov. FAS routinely engages in program promotion opportunities, such as encouraging the submission of applications to the program during meetings with industry groups or other interested parties, as well as email and telephone engagements with industry about the TASC program.

In FY 2021, FAS funded 15 TASC programs for a total of \$7,182,146. FAS received its total funding of \$9,000,000 from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the 2021 TASC program. Of those total funds, OMB provided \$1,023,650 to cover administrative expenses incurred by TASC program. These funds are a subset of the total apportioned amount and are not available for programming. There are \$281,204 remaining in FY 2021 funding that the FY 2021 programs did not utilize.

**Table 1: TASC Program 2021 Agreement List**

Agreement Number	Participant	Activity Title	Funded Amount
2021-03	North Carolina State University	To develop strategies to be applied by sweet potato growers, packers, and shippers for product quality expectations.	\$1,200,000
2021-04	Washington Apple Commission	To conduct research and extension activities to develop portable early detection tools for on-site detection of six postharvest quarantine pathogens, and for research activities for Manchurian crabapple pollinizer replacement.	\$1,200,000
2021-05	California Table Grape Commission	To establish maximum residue limits (MRLs) for the following compounds: clofentezine, fenutatin-oxide, fenpropathrin, metaflumizone, methyl bromide, pyrethrins, sulfur dioxide, cyfluthrin, malathion, and piperonyl butoxide. This entails creating ten data packages and submitting them to the South Korean government regulators.	\$86,925
2021-06	University of Puerto Rico (UPR)-Agricultural Experiment Station	To establish an identification, certification, and information system for fruit flies that affect mango farms in Puerto Rico. UPR will facilitate information system offering pest management recommendations and regulatory compliance.	\$286,195
2021-10	Texas Department of Agriculture	To develop an industry certification that addresses SPS barriers related to the pecan weevil that reduce the instances of U.S. pecans being refused at the Mexican border.	\$44,000
2021-11	The Regents of the University of California (Merced)	To build a sensor for detection of <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> in tree nuts.	\$499,853

**Table 1 Continued**

2021-12	National Potato Commission	To expand the lucrative Mexican market by repealing the injunctions against expansion of U.S. fresh potato market access into Mexico.	\$650,000
2021-13	Northwest Horticultural Council	To upgrade the MRL database that is linked to the Washington State University Decision Aid System (DAS). The DAS provides information for pest management of Pacific Northwest tree fruits including weather, insects and disease pathogens, information on pesticide choice, and MRLs for pesticides designated for foreign markets.	\$29,500
2021-14	The Regents of the University of California (Davis)	To conduct inoculation experiments to test if and to what extent strawberries are a host for <i>Xylella fastidiosa</i> .	\$232,042
2021-15	Wine Institute	To help the U.S. wine industry adapt to the rapidly changing regulatory requirements for crop protection substances in export markets.	\$650,000
2021-07	Hazelnut Marketing Board	To assess the nutritional components of Oregon hazelnut skins.	\$184,226
2021-08	Hazelnut Marketing Board	To eliminate processing and shelf-life trade barriers for Oregon hazelnuts.	\$184,226
2021-17	Washington State University	To support honey beekeepers' efforts to maintain sustainable beekeeping operations through research on colony storage, improving genetics, and environmental impacts on honeybee health.	\$1,082,952
2021-18	California Agricultural Export Council	To develop postharvest treatments and strategies to control insect pests so that California pomegranates gain market access to Australia, Korea, and other potential markets.	\$827,227
2021-19	California Table Grape Export Association	To secure data and supporting information on the arrival and clearance process for non-precleared California table grape exports to Australia and New Zealand.	\$25,000
		Total	\$7,182,146

## Trade Summary: U.S. Specialty Crop Exports in 2021

In FY 2021, the export value for U.S. specialty crops increased from \$23.7 billion in 2020 to \$24.9 billion in 2021. All specialty crop sectors experienced growth including a 7.5 percent increase in processed fruits and vegetables. Additionally, the nursery sector rebounded strongly with 14.6 percent growth over FY 2020. Global exports of U.S. wine were valued at approximately \$1.44 billion, increasing 11 percent from FY 2020.

U.S. exports of fresh fruits and tree nuts continue to face difficulties from the European Union's (EU) hazard-based approach to pesticide MRLs. The EU has removed critical pesticide MRLs for specialty crops, making import requirements more restrictive. U.S. fruits and tree nuts are also subject to retaliatory tariffs from the People's Republic of China (PRC), India, and the EU. Wine exports face cumbersome labeling and registration requirements in the EU. U.S. producers are also at a disadvantage when competing against other supplying countries that have preferential access agreements with export markets, particularly the EU, PRC,



Japan, and India. PRC's import restrictions continue to impose costs and delays on imports of U.S. cold chain food products, including horticultural products. Japan's stringent sanction policy for non-compliant agricultural imports applies to the entire industry and discourages exports. Burdensome fumigation requirements in PRC, Japan, and Costa Rica impede exports of several horticultural products. Market access and lack of transparency remain an issue in many markets. The United States will continue to support countries in adopting or maintaining risk-based approaches to pesticide regulation, collaborate with like-minded governments in support of science-based policies, and work with these coalitions to advocate for the use of Codex standards.

## Global Import Restrictions for Wine

As provided in the Foreword of this report, Section 101 of the Specialty Crops Competitiveness Act of 2004 (7 U.S.C. 1621 Note), as amended under Section 10010 of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Public Law 113-79 (2014 Farm Bill), defines specialty crops as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). Building upon this guidance, USDA specified that to be considered a specialty crop, processed products shall consist of greater than 50 percent of the specialty crop by weight, exclusive of added water. Pursuant to this definition, and as grapes are considered a specialty crop, grape wine is also considered a specialty crop.

**INTERNATIONAL WINE TECHNICAL SUMMIT (IWTS):** U.S. wine exporters face a growing number of overly restrictive import requirements, notably requirements for official certificates beyond those normally provided by the U.S. Department of Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco and Tax Trade Bureau (TTB). The requirements often involve additional laboratory testing or certification of good manufacturing practices. FAS provides TASC Program funding to the California Wine Institute, a cooperator and leading trade association representing California wineries, to support and host the IWTS, first held in 2016. This annual event brings together industry and U.S. and trading partner regulators to focus on the use of science in the development of regulatory and enforcement systems for wine. The 2021 IWTS was a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with participants from more than 100 foreign government and industry representatives from nearly every continent. Participating U.S. agencies included USDA, FDA, TTB, and the U.S. Department of Commerce. The IWTS provided information that supported regulatory changes in Brazil and Kenya, important research into performance by regulatory laboratories, and shared the exposure of smoke compounds in grapes.

## 2021 Success Stories

**Argentina** reopened its market to U.S. apples and pears on May 12, 2021. Argentina had barred imports of apples and pears in 2009 due to pest concerns. U.S. apple exports are expected to reach \$3 million in the first year of renewed access while U.S. pear exports are forecast at \$120,000.

**Canada** approved alternative romaine lettuce import measures on September 13, 2021, removing significant cost barriers for exporters. Canada agreed to add pre-harvest testing to E. coli control measures, which only allowed for post-harvest testing and thus created a significant cost barrier for many exporters. In 2021, U.S. lettuce exports to Canada were valued at \$442 million.

**Colombia** confirmed in August 2021 that it will not require a certificate of good manufacturing practices for U.S. alcohol beverages. Colombia has determined that the U.S. Department of Treasury's TTB export certificates are sufficient, and no additional certification is required. U.S. exports of wine to Colombia were valued approximately \$1.8 million in 2021.



**France** ended import bans on fresh cherries in April 2021. The removal of the dimethoate ban on cherries will allow U.S. cherry exporters to export to France for the first time since 2015. The non-renewal of the regulation will reopen the market for U.S. cherries, previously valued at \$480,000 annually.

**Indonesia** recognized California as a fruit fly-free area on June 22, 2021. Japan now recognizes pest free areas for a broader list of horticultural products, including California citrus and stone fruit. Indonesia is a significant market, with total fresh fruit exports reaching \$94 million in 2014.

**Japan** lifted mandatory aflatoxin inspection requirements for U.S. walnuts on April 1, 2021. It was the first suspension of the 100 percent hold-and-test inspection requirement for aflatoxin-vulnerable imports since Japan implemented the requirements in 2004. In 2021, the United States exported \$114 million of walnuts to Japan.

**Japan** raised its MRL for fenpropathrin in nectarines from 0.02 parts per million (ppm) to 1 ppm, effective August 31, 2021. This MRL is aligned with the U.S. MRL for nectarines. In 2021, the United States exported \$1.1 million of fresh nectarines to Japan.

**Thailand** agreed to accept the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Model Wine Certificate for U.S. wine in August 2021, thereby eliminating the requirement for U.S. industry to conduct additional testing or provide certificate of analysis. The U.S. government worked directly with the Thai government through various international fora and bilateral discussions to resolve this concern, which dates back to 2017. U.S. exports of wine to Thailand were valued approximately \$6.2 million in 2021.

**The United Kingdom** and the United States signed the “Agreement Between the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Trade in Wine” on January 31, 2019. It entered into force on December 31, 2020, when written notification by both parties confirmed the completion of entry into force procedures to guarantee U.S.-UK trade in wine would continue without interruption, despite the UK’s official exit from the European Union. U.S. exports of wine to the UK were valued approximately \$195 million in 2021.

The United States received approval to use sulfur dioxide preservative pads in specified foreign markets (including **PRC, the Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and Hong Kong**) on January 27, 2021. This strategy extends the shelf life of blueberries and decreases transit costs. In 2019, blueberry exports from the United States were valued at \$121 million, with \$6.5 million going to these targeted markets.

## Trade Issues Summary

### Africa and Middle East

Country	Commodity	Issue	Additional information
Algeria	Almonds	Import Ban	Seasonal ban from June to August.
Egypt	Seed Potatoes	Market Access/ Plant Health	APHIS is developing a pest risk assessment (PRA) and provided a pest control protocol.
Egypt	Date Palm Shoots	Market Access/ Plant Health	APHIS submitted a pest control protocol for review by Egypt.
Morocco	Seed Potatoes	Market Access/ Plant Health	Morocco is finalizing the phytosanitary import requirements for U.S. seed potatoes (Atlantic, Cal White, and Chieftain).

South Africa	Pacific Northwest Apples	Market Access/ Plant Health	APHIS and the U.S. Pacific Northwest (PNW- Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) apple industry will review South Africa's proposed workplan changes and request for a second virtual site visit to view the cold treatment certification procedures for apple maggot regulated areas in the PNW.
South Africa	Blueberries	Market Access/ Plant Health	South Africa will review and respond to APHIS' proposed changes to two workplans for the export of blueberries from the eastern and western United States.

## Asia

Country	Commodity	Issue	Additional information
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Chipping Potatoes	Facility Certification	PRC requires importer's processing facilities to be certified compliant with Decree 177, which requires segregation of U.S. potatoes from domestic production during processing before authorizing access .
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Blueberries	Systems Approach Approval	The United States is engaging to implement a systems approach by removing fumigation requirements as an import condition for eight states (i.e. Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey and North Carolina).
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Almond Pellets/ Cubes/Hulls	Market Access	The U.S. almond industry submitted an application to PRC to add almond hulls to the feed ingredient list. Additionally, the pellet and cube phytosanitary workplan requires an amendment to include almond hulls.
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Pomegranate	Market Access/ Plant Health	APHIS is developing a PRA.
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Strawberry	Excessive Penalty	The United States has requested less severe penalty terms, which currently discourages U.S. strawberry shipments, for non-compliance within the export protocol.
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Sweet Potatoes	Market Access/ Plant Health	APHIS is developing a PRA.
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Cranberries	Market Access/ Plant Health	APHIS is developing a PRA.
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Peaches	Market Access/ Plant Health	APHIS is developing a PRA.
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Wisconsin Ginseng	Packaging Re- strictions	Requested consumer friendly Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora restrictions on retail packages to meet PRC's import requirements.

## Asia Continued

Country	Commodity	Issue	Barrier/Challenge
People's Republic of China (PRC)	MRLs	Import Tolerances and Good Laboratory Practices	PRC lacks an import tolerance policy for reviewing applications and pesticide data establishing MRLs that are a priority for U.S. agricultural products. In addition, engagement between EPA and PRC for certifying good laboratory practices and mutual acceptance of data in support of MRL applications have not resumed.
People's Republic of China (PRC)	Wine	Tariffs	PRC increased the tariff on U.S. wine imports from 14 to 54 percent since 2018.
Indonesia	Horticultural Products	Import Licensing	The United States is engaging in efforts to address timely issuance of licenses, inspection requirements for U.S. exporters and upcoming regulatory changes to Indonesia's licensing system.
Indonesia	Horticultural Products	Pre-shipment Inspection	The United States is engaging in efforts to remove Indonesia's third-party physical inspection requirement for U.S. horticultural products.
India	Horticultural Products	Tariffs	India implemented retaliatory tariffs, ranging from 1.7 percent to 20 percent in 2019 on 28 different products imported from the United States, including almonds, apples, and walnuts.
India	Apples	Non-GE Certificate	Since March 2021, India requires consignments of 24 food crops (including apples) imported into India to include a "non-GM (genetically modified) origin and GM free certificate".
India	Cherries	Market Access	India is in the process of notifying to the WTO an initial plant quarantine order to allow imports of U.S. cherries into under a systems approach.
India	Horticultural Products	Facility Registration	India notified a new regulatory framework mandating that products in certain categories be registered with the Indian authority prior to export. These products will also be subject to the inspection of their (overseas) manufacturing facilities by Indian regulatory officials. India has not yet defined the scope of the product categories covered under this regulatory framework.
Japan	All Agricultural Crops	MRLs – Sanctions	The United States has requested Japan to adopt a risk-based inspection system that only applies sanctions to specific producers/exporters when an MRL violation is detected, rather than applying an industry-wide sanction.
Japan	All Agricultural Crops	Post-Harvest Fungicides	Japan classifies post-harvest fungicides (PHFs) as food additives, requiring registrants to pay for two risk assessments and food suppliers to include the PHFs on the label.
Japan	Almonds	Inspection Regime	The United States is working with Japan on its 100 percent inspection requirement.
Japan	Chipping and Table-Stock Potatoes	Market Access	The United States is engaging in efforts to gain expanded market access for U.S. table-stock potatoes.

## Asia Continued

Country	Commodity	Issue	Barrier/Challenge
Japan	Apples	Market Access	The United States is engaging with Japan to allow for the adoption of a systems approach, which would eliminate the costly requirement for methyl bromide fumigation prior to export.
Japan	Stone Fruits	Market Access	The United States is working with Japan on a revised operational work plan for U.S. nectarines and European plums.
Japan	Lettuce	Measures to Mitigate Pests	In June 2021, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries provided its full list of pests detected through on-arrival inspections.
South Korea	All Agricultural Crops	MRLs	Ensure a smooth transition by Korea to its positive list system. There are still hundreds of import tolerance applications that need to be submitted to Korea.
South Korea	Blueberries, Cherries, Grapefruit, Apples, Pears	Market Access	The United States is engaging to expand access for U.S. blueberries from U.S. states beyond Oregon, improve the cherry import program, and establish access for apples, pears, stone fruits, and grapefruit from Texas.
South Korea	Walnuts	Removal of Korea's Oversight	Complete requirements that will allow the removal of Korea's oversight for methyl bromide fumigations for California walnuts (this will transfer the program from requiring an inspector from Korea all season to only requiring a single visit and allow for year-round access).
South Korea	Potatoes	Market Access	APHIS is completing a PRA for potatoes from 11 states.
South Korea	Baby carrots	Market Access	APHIS is completing a PRA.
Malaysia	Wine	Tariffs	Wine is subject to an effective tariff of up to 500 percent when import duties and excise taxes are combined.
Philippines	Horticultural Products	Import Permits	The United States is engaging to eliminate requirements for importers to obtain a sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance permit signed by Philippine's Secretary of Agriculture or designated representative and then transmit the permit to the exporter prior to shipment for horticultural products.
Taiwan	All Agricultural Crops	MRLs	The United States is engaging to improve Taiwan's MRL regulatory system in order to facilitate trade.
Taiwan	Fresh Ginseng	Market Access	The United States is engaging to establish access for Wisconsin fresh ginseng.
Taiwan	Potato	Quality Standards (Quarantine Requirements)	The United States is engaging on potato quality issues, such as sprouting, with the goal of reaching an agreement on quality standards; along with developing specific quarantine requirements for the importation of U.S. processing potatoes.
Taiwan	Texas Grapefruit and Oranges	Market Access	In March 2021, APHIS provided additional information requested by Taiwan's Bureau of Animal and Plant Health Inspection and Quarantine) to complete review of the market access request.

## Asia Continued

Country	Commodity	Issue	Barrier/Challenge
Vietnam	Stone Fruits: Apricots, Peaches, Nectarines, Plums	Market Access	Access pending continued technical discussions on PRAs.
Vietnam	Grapefruit	Market Access	Access pending continued technical discussions on PRAs

## Oceania and Pacific Islands

Country	Commodity	Issue	Barrier/Challenge
Australia	Apples	Market Access	USDA is engaging with Australia.
New Zealand	Blueberries	Market Access	The United States provided technical information related to a new market access request for U.S. blueberry exports to New Zealand.

## Europe

Country	Commodity	Issue	Barrier/Challenge
European Union	Horticultural Products	MRLs	Concerns over EU's policy approach for how it sets and changes pesticide MRLs and import tolerance levels, including discontinuing use of critical substances without sufficient science-based justifications.
European Union	Tree Nuts, Citrus, Blueberries	MRLs	An import tolerance for phosmet expired in July 2021 and has not been renewed since then.
European Union	Fruits, Nuts, Vegetables, Citrus	MRLs	Renewal assessment of glyphosate, which is set to expire December 2022.
European Union	Pistachios	Contaminant	Trade restrictive maximum level for ochratoxin A levels in pistachios.
European Union	Wine	Technical Barrier	Restrictions on use of traditional terms, such as "tawny," "ruby," and "chateau" on labels of imported wines impedes U.S. wine exports to the EU.
France	Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	Technical Barrier	Ban on non-compostable Price look-up fruit stickers restrict product traceability, ease of purchase, and overall market access for sweet potato and grapefruit exports. A plastic packaging ban could begin affecting products such as cranberries and cherries as early as December 2024.
Russia	Most U.S. Exports	Import Ban	Ban established in 2014 in retaliation for U.S. sanctions and renewed annually.

## North America

Country	Commodity	Issue	Barrier/Challenge
Mexico	Apples	Plant Health Oversight	As of 2022, Mexico may conduct audits up to every three years. Additionally, California can ship apples to Mexico using cold treatment.
Mexico	Fresh Potatoes	Market Access	Ongoing in 2021 with notable progress made in 2022.

## Caribbean, Central and South America

Country	Commodity	Issue	Barrier/Challenge
Argentina	Grapes and Berries	Phytosanitary Barrier	Restricted market access due to pest concerns that are easily mitigated, already present in Argentina, or are now eradicated from the United States.
Brazil	Wine	Technical Barrier	Brazil has unnecessarily burdensome testing requirements for wine. Brazil requires costly laboratory analysis for unique wine parameters. Additionally, the first shipment of a specific brand and varietal of U.S. wine must be tested before leaving the U.S. and again by a laboratory once the product reaches Brazil.
Chile	Blueberries	Market Access	Chile only permits imports of blueberries from three U.S. states due to pest concerns in other states.
Costa Rica	Fresh Potatoes	Market Access	Persistent issues remain regarding at-border processes and market access for fresh U.S. potatoes, both for chipping and table stock potatoes.
Costa Rica	Horticultural Products	Phytosanitary Barrier	High cost of quarantine fumigations at Costa Rican ports of entry when quarantine pests are intercepted in shipments.
Ecuador	Potatoes	Market Access	Mandatory and cumbersome process for allocating import licenses for potatoes and various other agricultural products.
Guatemala	Horticultural Products	Phytosanitary Barrier	Fumigated consignments may be denied entry due to the presence of quarantine pests without consideration of additional or alternate treatments.
Panama	Onions	Technical Barrier	Onions cannot be sold 75 days after the date of harvest and overly prescriptive storage temperature and humidity requirements. Panama also has a zero tolerance for sprouting.
Panama	Onions	Market Retention	Panama agreed with APHIS' proposed alternative inspection protocol instead of requiring laboratory testing for <i>Ditylenchus dipsaci</i> and the additional declaration (AD) last year, but added a legal review process, which delays finalizing the AD.
Panama	Potatoes	Technical Barrier	Potatoes cannot be sold 30 days after the date of harvest and overly prescriptive storage temperature and humidity requirements. Panama has a zero tolerance for sprouting.