



Exporting blueberries to the Republic of Korea

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The effort to open the market in the Republic of Korea (South Korea) for fresh Oregon blueberries has been a long one. Eleven years ago, the USDA APHIS Agricultural Marketing Service issued an initial market access request to South Korea. After much negotiation, which included sharing of scientific information and a site visit from a South Korean regulatory official, South Korea is now developing the rules necessary for Oregon growers and packers to access this market. Although there are still several steps in the process, the USDA, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and Oregon Blueberry Commission anticipate the market opening up between mid- to late-July of 2011 and next season. However, before any access will be granted, there are certain regulatory requirements that must be met.



Image from Google

South Korea's requirements

South Korea has identified several pests they are concerned about. Seven of those pests require either an official survey to verify freedom from the pest of concern or adoption of specific pest management practices to prevent the pest from reaching South Korea on fresh fruit.

BLUEBERRY PESTS OF CONCERN TO SOUTH KOREA		
Pest	Common Name	Mitigation measure required
<i>Monilinia vaccinii-corymbosi</i>	Mummy berry	Monitor and treat as needed
<i>Argyrotaenia citrana</i>	Orange tortrix	Trap monitor and treat as needed
<i>Choristoneura rosaceana</i>	Oblique banded leaf roller	Trap monitor and treat as needed
<i>Grapholita packardii</i>	Cherry fruit worm moth	Trap monitor and treat as needed
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	Sudden oak death	Official survey
Tobacco ring spot virus	TRSV	
Tomato ring spot virus	ToRSV	

For the three insect pests and mummy berry, State government officials or licensed crop consultants may conduct the necessary monitoring. Treatments, if applied, will be verified through grower records of pesticide applications. Monitoring results and treatment records must be maintained until the start of the following year's harvest. Review of these records will be needed to issue a phytosanitary certificate.

Official surveys

Official surveys by an ODA inspector are required for the remaining pests, *P. ramorum*, TRSV, and ToRSV. *Phytophthora ramorum* has never been reported infecting blueberries, while TRSV and ToRSV are very rarely found infecting commercial plantings in Oregon. Because *P. ramorum* can

infect evergreen huckleberry and other related species and because TRSV and ToRSV have been reported infecting blueberries in the Pacific Northwest, South Korea is concerned these pests could spread to their country on fresh fruit.

South Korea currently requires ODA inspectors survey the orchards of at least 10% of all commercial blueberry growers in Oregon. The orchards surveyed must be located within the top-10 blueberry producing counties in the state. At the conclusion of the official survey, at least 650 acres of commercial plantings must have been inspected.

During the official survey, ODA inspectors will look for a variety of symptoms associated with the three pests. If no suspicious symptoms are observed, the fruit from that orchard will be eligible to submit for export to South Korea. However, if symptoms are observed, a sample must be collected from the affected plant and submitted to the ODA Plant Health Laboratory for official testing. If the samples test free of the three target pests, the fruit from the orchard will be eligible to submit for export. If one of the target pests is detected, the fruit will not be eligible for export and the grower must adopt disease mitigation measures for the affected orchard.



***P. ramorum* infecting
evergreen huckleberry**
(ODA file photo)



ToRSV infecting blueberry
(Image from Google)



TRSV infecting blueberry
(Image from APS Press)

After the survey is complete, the ODA inspector will provide an official State Field Inspection Certificate to the grower. This certificate will show the results of the survey. If a sample was collected for testing, the test results will arrive as a separate, official laboratory report. Like the monitoring and treatment records for mummy berry and the three insect pests of concern, the inspection certificate and official laboratory report (if applicable) must be kept on file until the start of the following year's harvest. Review of these records will be needed to issue a phytosanitary certificate.

Participation in the survey by individual growers is voluntary. However, an official survey must be done in order to access this market. Growers' willingness to participate in the survey is greatly appreciated. Any questions about the program can be directed to Gary Neuschwander (gneuschwander@oda.state.or.us) or Dr. Nancy Osterbauer (nosterbauer@oda.state.or.us), or by calling 503-986-4620. Questions about the insect pests and monitoring can be directed to Dr. Helmuth Rogg (hrogg@oda.state.or.us) or by calling 503-986-4636.