

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Canada Consults on National Potato Wart Response Plan

Country: Canada

Post: Ottawa

Report Category: Potatoes and Potato Products, Sanitary/Phytopsanitary/Food Safety

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Report Highlights:

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has opened a 60-day consultation on their draft National Potato Wart Response Plan. The consultation will remain open for comment until July 26, 2024. CFIA began a review of its approach for potato wart in 2020. To date, potato wart has been detected in two Canadian provinces: Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is [consulting](#) on their draft plan to update the National Potato Wart Response Plan to align with current science, international standards, and technologies. The Response Plan will be used to determine measures applied after the detection and confirmation of potato wart in a field. As part of this, CFIA has also reviewed Canada's [Potato Wart Domestic Long-Term Management Plan](#) and the outcome of the consultation will be used to finalize a new long-term management plan.

Key topics for the Response Plan consultation are mitigation measures for three main focal areas:

- Use of resistant potato varieties
- Increased soil analysis
- Additional equipment cleanliness requirements

Source: CFIA

Comments can be submitted to CFIA by email until July 26, 2024, using the subject line "National Potato Wart Response Plan":

cfia.potatosection-sectiondespommesteterre.acia@inspection.gc.ca

To date, two provinces in Canada have reported potato wart: Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island (PEI). Newfoundland is considered endemic for potato wart, where it was first reported in 1909, with strict biosecurity measures in effect, including a prohibition on moving potatoes out of the province. Potato wart was first detected on PEI in 2000. A U.S. Federal Order was implemented in [2015](#) following additional detections in PEI which specified import conditions for PEI potatoes to prevent introduction of potato wart to the United States. The U.S. Federal Order was amended in [April 2022](#), following 2021 detections of potato wart in two PEI potato fields, prohibiting the importation of PEI-grown seed potatoes into the United States while allowing imports of PEI potatoes for consumption that meet specified conditions. Prior to the April 2022 Order, trade of PEI potatoes to the United States had been disrupted since November 2021 with CFIA unable to certify PEI potatoes for export to the United States following the potato wart detections. Canada also implemented a Ministerial Order restricting movement of seed potatoes from PEI to other domestic or international markets.

Following the 2021 detections, CFIA initiated an investigation into potato wart on PEI. The results of soil sampling from that investigation, along with previous potato wart detections, have led to a cumulative total of 37 PEI fields testing positive for potato wart since 2000; and the investigation which took place from October 2021 to July 2023 resulted in 4 detections from 48,789 samples. Fields with confirmed potato wart are classed as restricted fields and undergo a period of evaluation for several years before restrictions can be released.

Attachments:

No Attachments.