

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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**Report Name:** US Chipping Potatoes Gain Year-Round Access to Japan

**Country:** Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Potatoes and Potato Products, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

On February 14, 2020, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries removed seasonal restrictions on the import window for U.S. chipping potatoes. At the same time, Japan also lifted the two-months maximum storage restriction on U.S. chipping potatoes. In 2019, the United States exported \$17.8 million in fresh chipping potatoes to Japan.

**General Information:**

On February 14, 2020, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) revised the "Regulatory Details for Plant Quarantine of U.S. Raw Potato Tubers from the United States" (available [here](#) in Japanese only), supplementing MAFF's Ministerial Notification #114 (available [here](#) in Japanese only) which stipulates the standards for importing U.S raw potato tubers into Japan. This revision took immediate effect and allows year-around access for U.S. chipping potatoes.

At the same time, MAFF lifted the restriction on maximum storage duration for U.S. chipping potato imports.

Since U.S. chipping potatoes first gained market access to Japan on February 1, 2006, Japan has imposed many import restrictions due to quarantine concerns. One of these restrictions was the import window, which initially limited the import period to February through June, and later, in July 2011, extended it through the end of July. Another MAFF regulation limited the maximum storage duration for U.S. chipping potatoes to two months and not past September 30<sup>th</sup> of the import year.

For nearly fifteen years, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) engaged with MAFF officials to demonstrate that the limited trade window was not a phytosanitary-based restriction, but rather a technical barrier to trade.

**Attachments:**

No Attachments.