

RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh Cucurbits for human consumption

Overview



(Image: Clyde Robinson, (2006), *Honeydew melons* <https://flic.kr/p/bp8GJ> (CC BY 2.0))

Permitted types of fresh Cucurbits that are imported for human consumption must be:

- sourced from an approved country
- subject to pre-export inspection by the national plant protection organisation of the exporting country
- accompanied by an original phytosanitary certificate
- securely packaged (i.e. insect proof)
- inspected on-arrival.

In addition to these common requirements:

- Imports from USA and Europe must be sourced from an area free from fruit flies
- Imports from Republic of Korea must have an import permit and must be imported within the fruit fly seasonal area freedom period: 1 December and 31 May

The department has not developed import conditions for countries other than NZ, the USA (excluding Hawaii), Korea and European countries.

Importers and department staff should ensure that the BICON conditions are met and that goods are free from biosecurity risks, as well as the key risks described below.

Key risks

Melon fly (*Bactrocera cucurbitae*)

Fresh cucurbits from the USA (excluding Hawaii) and European countries may be associated with [melon fly](#). Fruit flies are a national priority plant pest for Australia as they can cause significant damage to the fruit and reduce production.

The melon fly is not recorded in NZ and therefore specific risk management measures are not required for this pathway. However, melon fly is found in the USA and European countries and therefore produce grown in these countries must be sourced from a fruit fly free area or an area 15 km from the epicentre of exotic fruit fly areas.

Pumpkin fruit fly (*Zeugodacus depressus*)

Fresh cucurbits from Korea may be associated with pumpkin fruit fly. Fruit flies are a national priority plant pest for Australia as they can cause significant damage to the fruit and reduce production.

Fresh cucurbits from Korea are imported between 1 December and 31 May in line with when pumpkin fruit fly is seasonally absent from the production areas. Should pumpkin fruit fly be found in imported cucurbits, the seasonal area freedom measure will be reviewed.

Other pathway risks

Like all imported horticultural produce, fresh Cucurbits may contain a range of biosecurity risk material such as other live insects, diseased symptoms, and contaminants such as soil, weed seeds, hitchhiker pests and trash. These biosecurity risks are managed through the range of import conditions outlined above.