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## Japan

**Post:** Tokyo

### Japan Lifts Suspension of Idaho Chipping Potatoes

**Report Categories:**

Agricultural Situation

Potatoes and Potato Products

Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

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**Report Highlights:**

On September 12, 2017, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) rescinded a suspension on the import of fresh chipping potatoes from Idaho. The same decision also permits the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to approve areas to supply seed potatoes for the 16 states approved to export chipping potatoes to Japan. The United States exported \$19 million in fresh chipping potatoes to Japan in 2016.

Keywords: JA9117, Japan, Potato, Idaho.

**General Information:**

On September 12, 2017, Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) revised the “Enforcement Regulations of the Plant Disease Prevention Law Regarding Raw Potato Tubers for Potato Chips from the United States”, rescinding a suspension on the import of fresh chipping potatoes from all counties in Idaho except for Bingham and Bonneville counties, which remain under quarantine for pale cyst nematode (PCN).

Idaho was one of the original 14 states approved to export chipping potatoes to Japan on February 1, 2006. The original state approved included Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin. Japan approved exports from Montana and Nevada in 2012, bringing the total number of states eligible to export to Japan to 16 (though Idaho was suspended).

On April 21, 2006, Japan suspended imports from all States following the discovery of PCN in Bingham County, Idaho. In January 2007, MAFF removed the suspension on thirteen states, but maintained the suspension on Idaho. Over the 10 years since, APHIS and the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) engaged with MAFF officials to demonstrate the effectiveness of the PCN eradication program that led to Japan’s lifting of the Idaho suspension in September 2017.

The September 12 decision also permits APHIS to notify MAFF of regions in the United States that are free of PCN and are approved to supply seed potatoes to those states that are producing chipping potatoes for export to Japan. This new procedure relieves a logistical challenge producers have faced when filling orders for Japan.

U.S. exports of fresh chipping potatoes were \$19 million in 2016.

**Side-by-side comparison of “Enforcement Regulations of the Plant Disease Prevention Law Regarding Raw Potato Tubers for Potato Chips from the United States”**

Revised	Current
<p><b>Plant Quarantine Enforcement Detailed Regulations for US Grown Potatoes</b></p> <p><b>1. Area</b></p> <p>Production fields and packing facilities of chipping potatoes for Japan shall be designated by US plant protection authority. Each time when designated or cancelled, it shall be notified to plant protection office by the attached forms 1 and 2. Potatoes must come from approved supplying states. Approved supplying states are:</p>	<p><b>Plant Quarantine Enforcement Detailed Regulations for US Grown Potatoes</b></p> <p><b>1. Area</b></p> <p>Production fields and packing facilities of chipping potatoes for Japan shall be designated by US plant protection authority. Each time when designated or cancelled, it shall be notified to plant protection office by the attached forms 1 and 2. Potatoes must come from approved supplying states. Approved supplying states are:</p>

States of Idaho (excluding Bingham County and Bonneville County), Arizona, Wisconsin, Oregon, California, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Maine, Montana, and Washington.

**2. Survey in Production Areas**

The survey in Notification 1 shall be conducted as follows:

- (1) Production fields (omitted)
- (2) Seed potatoes

The U.S. plant protection authority must notify the Japan plant protection authority no later than the beginning of the import period that the potatoes used for the production of chipping potatoes (hereinafter referred to as “seed potatoes”) for export to Japan are free of golden nematodes and that the fields where the seed potatoes were produced satisfy the requirements of Notification 1.

- (3) Potato examination (omitted)

**3. Keeping Survey Results in Approved Supplying States and Other Areas and Production Records of Seed Potatoes**

The survey results in 2 (1) and (2) as well as seed potato production records shall be maintained by the grower or packer and made available to US plant protection authorities upon request.

4-6 (omitted)

**7. Measures when Golden Nematode is Found**

As a result of the surveillance in Notification 1 or the inspection in Notification 3 (1), if golden nematode is found, US plant protection authority shall immediately notify Japanese plant protection authority and suspend issuance of plant quarantine certificate for shipments to Japan.

States of Arizona, Wisconsin, Oregon, California, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, Maine, Montana, and Washington.

**2. Survey in Production Areas**

The survey in approved supplying states in Notification 1 shall be conducted as follows:

- (1) Production fields (omitted)
- (2) Seed potatoes

The potatoes used for the production of chipping potatoes (hereinafter referred to as “seed potatoes”) for export to Japan are free of golden nematodes and that the fields where the seed potatoes were produced were in approved supplying states.

- (3) Potato examination (omitted)

**3. Keeping Survey Results in Approved Supplying States and Production Records of Seed Potatoes**

The survey results in 2 (1) and (2) as well as seed potato production records shall be maintained by the grower or packer and made available to US plant protection authorities upon request.

4-6 (omitted)

**7. Measures when Golden Nematode is Found**

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