



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE
Karen Ross, Secretary

February 27, 2025
Renewed

Permit No. QC1533

**SPECIAL PERMIT TO SHIP FRESH BLUEBERRIES
PRODUCED UNDER A SYSTEMS APPROACH IN FLORIDA AND GEORGIA
FROM FLORIDA TO CALIFORNIA**

Under authority of Title 3, California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 3154 (Secretary May Issue Special Permits), permission is granted to Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) to authorize shipments of fresh blueberries, produced under a “systems approach,” grown in Florida and Georgia and shipped from Florida to California, which would otherwise be prohibited by CCR, Section 3266 Plum curculio and Blueberry Maggot Exterior Quarantine, CCR, under the following conditions:

FDACS shall ensure that the following conditions are met:

1. This is a program, using a systems approach involving pre-harvest pesticide applications, in lieu of fumigation with methyl bromide, to target the quarantine pests of concern: *Rhagoletis mendax* (blueberry maggot) and *Conotrachelus nenuphar* (plum curculio).
2. Prior to shipping, the FDACS shall forward a list of the approved participants to this office.
3. The pre-harvest pesticide applications shall be performed by applicators that are registered or certified in pest control.
4. The participants shall maintain records, including the date, quantity, type of pesticides used, etc., for all pre-harvest pesticide applications and the FDACS and GDA shall monitor the pre-harvest pesticide applications.
5. The pre-harvest applications shall begin after petal fall and shall continue every seven days from petal fall through harvest for both high bush, rabbit eye, or any other blueberry type.
6. The pre-harvest applications shall be made with products that are labeled (including by formulation) as targeting plum curculio and/or blueberry maggot, either alone (such as azinphos methyl labeled for both) or by using two in combination (such as malathion – plum curculio and carbaryl – blueberry maggot) and in adherence to all applicable laws and regulations. All pesticides must be approved in advance by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.
7. The FDACS shall perform post-harvest hot water or sugar sampling (see Appendix A) for all blueberries produced under this systems approach and only lots sampled with negative results for both plum curculio and blueberry maggot are eligible for shipment under the terms of this permit.



8. Each shipment of blueberries shall be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by an authorized representative of the FDACS evidencing compliance with all of the systems approach requirements of this permit. This certificate also shall state the number of cartons in the shipment and the name and address of the consignee.
9. The vehicle transporting each shipment of blueberries authorized and certified under the terms of this permit to California shall be sealed at origin under the supervision of an authorized representative of the FDACS. The seal shall not be broken until arrival of the vehicle and shipment in California. All vehicles shall enter California through an Agricultural Inspection Station.

If the blueberries are shipped by air, the plane cargo container need not be sealed, provided each sub container is stamped, by an authorized representative of the FDACS as required by this permit. The stamp at all times shall be maintained by and under the control of the FDACS. Additionally, the participant is required to provide at least a 24 hour pre-notification in advance of shipment via an email including the phytosanitary certificate or other appropriate documentation having the equivalent information to California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), Permits and Regulations, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services (PHPPS), at Permits@cdfa.ca.gov. Documentation must include QC permit number and contact information for the appropriate FDACS representative. Failure to provide such notification shall be causing to eliminate a participant from the pilot program.

10. Each shipment of blueberries shall be subject to inspection by plant quarantine officials in California.

Violation of any of the conditions of this permit, or the detection of any serious live plant pest in any shipment authorized by this permit, shall be sufficient cause for immediate revocation of this permit and destruction of the fruit, or return of the fruit to origin at the expense of the shipper.

Unless earlier revoked, this permit is valid through February 28, 2026.



Dean Kelch, Ph.D.
Environmental Program Manager
Permits & Regulations
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services

cc: Josh Kress
Terra Walber
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Georgia Department of Agriculture.
File.

TESTING OF FRESH BLUEBERRIES FOR BLUEBERRY MAGGOT AND PLUM CURCULIO

A number of boxes containing fruit in bulk should be sampled as follows:

Number of primary containers

<i>Number of primary containers (e.g. pints, quarts, litres)</i>	<i>Sample size/No. of containers (e.g. pints, quarts, litres)</i>
0 - 100	4
100 - 300	6
300 - 500	8
500 and above	10

N.B.: Samples taken should be in the same units as the containers used. For example, if the blueberries are shipped in pint containers, then the samples taken should also be in pints.

Testing of blueberries for blueberry maggot

A. Hot Water Test

- 1) Place 1 litre (2 pints) of blueberries in a pot.
- 2) Nearly cover the blueberries with water.
- 3) Bring berries and water to a frothy boil and boil for at least 1 minute.
- 4) Empty berries into a 4 mesh per inch screen.
- 5) Gently crush berries in screen with the back of a spoon.
- 6) Rinse berries with cold running water and collect water and solids in a pan with a black bottom.
- 7) Allow the debris to settle and decant floating solids and most of the water.
- 8) Repeat rinsing and decanting until water is clear.
- 9) White maggots will be visible against the black bottom of the pan.

B. Brown Sugar Test

Sugar concentration = 3.5 kg brown sugar per 20 litres of water.

- 1) Place 1 litre (2 pints) of blueberries in a 4-litre container.
- 2) Gently crush berries in container.
- 3) Add sugar concentrate to 3 cm above crushed berries.
- 4) Agitate crushed berries in sugar solution.
- 5) Allow maggots to float to the surface.

N.B.: When using the brown sugar test, extreme care must be taken to follow the instructions precisely, in order to obtain accurate results.