



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

COMMISSIONER WILTON SIMPSON

March 28, 2025

Memorandum

To: Shippers and Growers of fresh blueberries to Canada

From: Christine Zamora
Export Certification Specialist

Subject: US/Canada Blueberry Certification Program

In partnership with the USDA, the Department is offering the US/Canada Blueberry Certification Program as an alternative to fumigation and phytosanitary certification for fresh blueberries shipped into Canada. There have been no changes to the program from last year.

If you wish to participate this year in the US/Canada Blueberry Certification Program, and to avoid any delays in shipment, applications must be received by my office **no later than one month prior to harvest**. Growers/shippers should contact their local DPI inspector to schedule an appointment to get signed up to participate, fill out an application, and receive training. You can find your local Division Plant Inspector here: <https://www.fdacs.gov/Divisions-Offices/Plant-Industry/Office-Locations>.

Training will be performed by an inspector with the Division of Plant Industry and is provided on the Division website at <https://www.fdacs.gov/Agriculture-Industry/Fruit-and-Vegetables/Blueberry-Regulations>.

A summary of the Growers responsibilities and the Division of Plant Industry responsibilities can be found on the following page. In addition, the Application for Approval to Participate in the Blueberry Certification Program (form FDACS 08202) has been included.

Growers Responsibilities

- Submit application for participation in the program
- Obtain Movement Certification Labels for shipment
- Meet trapping requirements
- Conduct biweekly testing of blueberry fruit for fruit flies
- Make records available upon request

Shippers Responsibilities

- Ensure all blueberries originate from approved growers
- Ensure all blueberry fruit shipments meet U.S. Grade #1 requirements
- Ensure Movement Certification Labels are affixed to shipping documents
- Make records available upon request

DPI Responsibilities

- Provide training to program participants
- Inspect and approve program applicant for program participation
- Conduct biweekly compliance monitoring
- Monitor trapping activities