



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Plant Protection
and Quarantine

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD
20737

September 7, 2010

Chris Zanobini
President, California Kiwifruit Commission
1521 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Zanobini,

To follow up on our September 2nd discussion, we share your concern about avoiding the introduction of *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* into the United States. Regarding the possibility that the pathogen could be introduced and established in the United States via Italian kiwifruit: We are unaware of any scientific information that fruit is a pathway for the introduction and establishment of this pest into the United States and thus cannot justify increasing restrictions on the importation of kiwifruit. We would revisit that conclusion if we were provided with published scientific data proving that fruit is a pathway, under natural conditions. We also encourage your organization to work with growers to ensure they are practicing good orchard sanitation practices and not placing culled fruit, whether domestic or imported, in kiwifruit orchards so as to decrease the likelihood that a foreign or domestic plant pest could be introduced and established in their production areas.

We continue to believe that the primary pathway for the introduction and establishment of this pest into the United States is the importation of *Actinidia* spp. propagative material. For many years, USDA has required imported kiwi plants to be subject to a two-year postentry growing requirement in order to ensure that such plants are given time to show symptoms of infestation with pests prior to release into commerce. Given the presence of this pest in most kiwi-producing countries and the effects it is having where it is present, we are moving to prohibit the importation of *Actinidia* spp. plants from countries where *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae* is known to be present. We will notify you as soon as that order is released to the public. Once the order is published, kiwi plants from affected countries will be prohibited importation until a full risk analysis can be prepared to evaluate and develop risk mitigations for all quarantine pests (including *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*) that are associated with those imported plants.

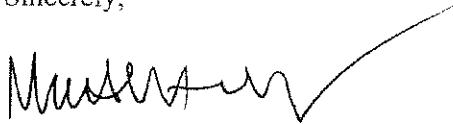
Attached please find a summary of recent importations (FY06 through FY10) of *Actinidia* spp. plants, as you requested.

We also encourage you and your growers to join PPQ's Stakeholder Registry, which allows us to provide you with information on PPQ activities relative to your interests on a routine basis, including new approvals or restrictions on the importation and interstate movement of kiwi plants and fruit. You can sign up for the Stakeholder Registry at this website:

<https://web01.aphis.usda.gov/PPQStakeWeb2.nsf>

Thank you for your interest and this issue, and please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Rhoads", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Matthew Rhoads
Director of Regulations, Permits, and Manuals
Plant Health Programs, PPQ, APHIS



Safeguarding American Agriculture
APHIS is an agency of USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Program

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Plant Genus Imports History from FY06 to FY10 Actinidia

<i>Country</i>	<i>Total # of Plants</i>	<i>Total # of SHPMTS</i>
Australia	100	1
Belgium	8	1
Canada	533	3
Greece	40	1
Italy	2	1
Netherlands	25	1
New Zealand	2296	10
<i>Grand Total</i>	3004	18

