

Policy and Programs Branch
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March 18, 2026

Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
Maine State Senate

Re: LD 473 - An Act to Support Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in Maine

Dear Darek Grant,

As regulatory organizations, officials from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry have historically worked cooperatively to prevent the spread of quarantine pests and to protect the agricultural resource base.

As the proposed amendments are important for bilateral trade in potato commodities, the CFIA would like to submit the following comments for your consideration.

Proposed amendment B. Bacterial ring rot must be defined as the scientific genus and species *Clavibacter michiganensis subspecies sepedonicus*.

- The scientific name for bacterial ring rot was reviewed in 2018, please note journal article, “Re-classification of *Clavibacter michiganensis* subspecies on the basis of whole-genome and multi-locus sequence analyses, International Journal of systematic and evolutionary microbiology” ([Int J Syst Evol Microbiol. 2018 Jan;68\(1\):234-240. doi: 10.1099/ijsem.0.002492. Epub 2017 Nov 21](https://doi.org/10.1099/ijsem.0.002492)).

Proposed amendment C. Regulated commodities as defined under Chapter 30 infected or contaminated with Potato Wart, also known as *Synchytrium endobioticum*, may not enter the State if the area of origin is one of the following provinces in Canada: Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland or Labrador.

- Please note that on April 1, 2022, the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant, Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine issued Federal Order [DA-2022-14](#) concerning the import of potatoes from Prince Edward Island, Canada to prevent the introduction of *Synchytrium endobioticum*, the causal agent of potato wart.

- The CFIA requests consideration for amendments to 01 001 Agriculture – general Chapter 30 Quarantine (potato) to align with the provisions of DA-2022-14, supporting the safe trade in potatoes for consumption from Prince Edward Island
- Seed potatoes produced in aseptic or controlled environments (in vitro plantlets, micro-tubers and mini-tubers for planting) produced in Prince Edward Island are not a pathway for potential spread of potato wart and are eligible for import into the United States when accompanied by the required permit.
- Since the implementation of DA-2022-14, the CFIA has published the [National Potato Wart Response Plan \(2025\)](#) to further mitigate risks associated with potato wart.
- Please note the formal name for the Canadian province Newfoundland and Labrador.

Proposed amendment D. The commissioner shall adopt rules relating to regulated commodities under Chapter 30 infected or contaminated with Potato Cyst Nematodes, also known as *Globodera pallida* and *Globodera rostochiensis*. The following areas of origin must be monitored for presence of the pathogen under this paragraph: New York and Idaho, and the Canadian provinces of Quebec, Alberta and Newfoundland, and Vancouver Island in Canada.

- Please note the formal name for the Canadian province Newfoundland and Labrador.
- Please note effective February 25, 2021, the CFIA determined that the province of Alberta is free from Potato Cyst Nematode. An official notice, “*Globodera rostochiensis* (Golden Nematode) - Canadian Food Inspection Agency Removes Regulated Area in the Province of Alberta” was published on the the North American Plant Protection Organization Phytosanitary Alert System on April 1, 2021. (<https://www.pestalerts.org/nappo/official-pest-reports/975/>)
- Please note that Vancouver Island should be replaced with the Municipality of Central Saanich, British Columbia.
- Please note that in the province of Quebec, Potato Cyst Nematodes are confined to the area outlined in the [Golden Nematode Infested Places Order](#).

Yours sincerely,

Diane Allan
Associate Vice-President
Policy and Programs Branch

Diane Allan
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
LD 473
See attached file.