

UPDATE: 25 July 2023

Kia ora

This update sees the European commission adopt a new proposal to regulate plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques (NGTs) while a survey carried out by Plant & Food highlights that New Zealanders feel they lack information on gene-edited foods and are wary of buying them. You’ll find links to these as well as our regular items of regulatory notifications, consultations, national and international news, and upcoming events below.

Ngā mihi

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| GOVERNMENT AGENCY NEWS |

## ICPR changes

The following ICPRs have been updated in the last two weeks:

* **Chile** has been updated with additional declarations for various species under Section 4.1.2. Dried Fruit and Vegetables; and updated botanical name and Additional Declaration for Triticosecale spp. under Section 4.4.1 Seeds, Grains and Nuts for Sowing. [ICPR Chile](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/629)
* Peru has been updated in a number of sections. [ICPR Peru](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11530)

If you need any further clarification, contact your Independent Verification Agency in the first instance.

## WTO and TBT Notifications

Please find attached the most recent WTO and TBT notifications from countries that are considering changes to their plant import requirements for specific products. If you have any concerns about the notifications being presented, please contact [Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Plant.exports@mpi.govt.nz) so that they can potentially make a submission to the notifying country.



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## Opinion piece:

#### Nadine's update: Focusing on the Future

In this week’s update Nadine Tunley highlights the vitality and passion of the horticulture industry in New Zealand, the challenges of balancing the grower’s needs and political realities, as well the importance of continuing to have societal support to grow as an industry. [Full article here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/nadines-update/focusing-on-the-future/)

## Industry news

#### Why New Zealand onions are cheaper in the UK

A tweet this week highlighted the price of Tesco onions, which were selling for 95p a kilogram, or just under $2. In comparison, the same onions were selling for $2.99 a kilogram in Countdown and $2.39 in Pak’n Save.

Chief executive at Onions New Zealand James Kuperus said the landed price of New Zealand onions in Britain, which represented the total cost of getting the product there, was about $2 a kilogram. Individual exporters and growers needed to determine the price they were willing to sell at, he said. New Zealand exported 6400 tonnes of onions to the UK this year, he said. [Full article here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/132521727/why-new-zealand-onions-are-cheaper-in-the-uk)

#### Zespri to trial new red kiwifruit cultivar

Zespri will begin pre-commercial growing trials of a new red kiwifruit cultivar this winter. Zespri chair Bruce Cameron said the cooperative wanted to extend the RubyRed season because there was high demand for the fruit in export markets.

In April, growers battled with smaller than usual red fruit after a wet season affected growing conditions. But in June Zespri announced it had almost tripled the number of RubyRed kiwifruit it exported compared to last year. Cameron said with more RubyRed orchards reaching maturity in future the cooperative expected to supply around 6.9 million trays of the fruit by 2027/28. "The decision to progress another red variety to pre-commercial trials is part of our effort to explore how to extend our supply of Zespri RubyRed Kiwifruit throughout the season and return more value to growers," he said. [Full article here](https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/132491316/zespri-to-trial-new-red-kiwifruit-cultivar)

#### Survey shows New Zealanders feel they lack information about gene-edited food

A new survey shows consumers are still wary of buying gene-edited food as the GE debate re-enters the political arena.

National is pledging to change the law restricting genetic engineering if it wins the election, a move many in the tech and farming sectors say is overdue. Asia, Africa and Australia farmers and horticulturalists have been growing genetically modified crops with pest and disease resistance for up to two decades. But in New Zealand the practice is tightly controlled by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act, which aside from some amendments, dates back to 1996.

However, a survey by Plant and Food Research found only 43 percent of New Zealand and Australian shoppers would be willing to buy GE produce. The participants wanted more information so they could make informed decisions. People were interested in exploring the possibility of gene modification but only if there were significant benefits to it, Plant and Food Research future urban consumer programme leader Dr Denise Conroy said [Full article here](https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/494384/survey-shows-new-zealanders-feel-they-lack-information-about-gene-edited-food) [Listen to the interview](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetonoon/audio/2018899687/survey-shows-nz-ers-wary-over-gene-edited-crops)

#### Upcoming events and webinars:

* 2023 Horticulture Conference Week, 31 July-4 August 2023, Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch. [Full details here](https://www.hortnz.co.nz/news-events-and-media/events/).
* Fresh Produce Safety Conference, 10 August 2023, University of Sydney and on-line. [Full details here](https://fpsc-anz.com/fresh-produce-safety-conference-2023/)
* Potatoes NZ Conference, 22 August 2023, Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre [Full details here.](https://potatoesnzconference.nz/home/)
* Asia Fruit Logistica, 6-8 September 2023, AsiaWorld Expo, Hong Kong[. Full details here](https://www.asiafruitlogistica.com/)
* CBAFF Conference 2023, 13-15 September, 2023, Wellington. [Full details here](https://www.cbaff.org.nz/2023conference)
* Asian Seed Congress 2023, 20-24 November 2023, Christchurch. [Full details here.](https://web.apsaseed.org/asc2023)

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| INTERNATIONAL NEWS |

## GAIN reports:

Gain reports are from the “Global Agricultural Information Network” and are produced by the USDA. They are designed to provide timely information on the economy, products and issues in foreign countries that are likely to have an impact on United States agricultural production and trade. The information in them is written for USA exporters but the majority is equally relevant to New Zealand. For import regulations for a particular market, New Zealand exporters should first check the countries ICPR on MPI’s web site.

**UK: Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards Export Certificate Report**

Following the UK’s departure from the European Union, U.S. export health certificates are now required to either follow the Great Britain model health certificates (for destinations within England, Scotland, or Wales) or the European Union model health certificates if shipping to Northern Ireland. This report provides information on, and the resources for obtaining, these export health certificates for plant, forestry, animal, and fishery products. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Food%20and%20Agricultural%20Import%20Regulations%20and%20Standards%20Export%20Certificate%20Report_London_United%20Kingdom_UK2022-0036)

**FAIRS Annual Country Report Annual:** [Australia](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report_Canberra_Australia_AS2023-0010), [Israel](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Tel%20Aviv_Israel_IS2023-0006), [Bangladesh](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Annual%20Country%20Report%20Annual_Dhaka_Bangladesh_BG2023-0014)

These reports provide information on the regulations and procedures for the importation of food and agricultural products from the United States to each country.

**FAIRS Export Certificate Report Annual:** [Australia](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Canberra_Australia_AS2023-0011), [Hong Kong](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=FAIRS%20Export%20Certificate%20Report%20Annual_Hong%20Kong_Hong%20Kong_HK2023-0025)

These reports include requirements such as registration, technical information, certificates and other documentation for food and agriculture product exports from the US to each country.

**European Commission Adopts New Regulation for Plants Obtained by Certain New Genomic Techniques**

On June 5, 2023, the European Commission (EC) adopted a new proposal to regulate plants obtained by certain new genomic techniques (NGTs) and their use for food and feed. The proposal comes at the end of a long process started on July 25, 2018 with the ruling of the European Court of Justice determining that organisms created through NGTs needed to be regulated as “GMOs” and covered by the EU’s current “GMO Directive” of 2001. After a study from the EC concluded that the GMO Directive is not “fit for purpose” for these newer products, a legislative initiative was started on September 24, 2021. The NGT or genome editing proposal was finally presented as part of the adopted package of measures for sustainable use of key natural resources, and it will now be evaluated by the European Parliament and Council of the EU. [Full report here](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=European%20Commission%20Adopts%20New%20Regulation%20for%20Plants%20Obtained%20by%20Certain%20New%20Genomic%20Techniques_Brussels%20USEU_European%20Union_E42023-0027)

## In The News:

#### Aussie regions spur projected $4B hike in horticulture sector, new report shows

The Australian fruit, vegetable, nut, turf, and nursery industries are projected to surge by up to 22.5 percent in combined value by 2030, increasing $4B to reach $21.8B, according to data released today. Commissioned by Hort Innovation, the Contribution of Australian horticulture industry report recognizes 25 horticultural growing regions nationally, revealing the current and projected economic contributions of the horticulture sector (including production and processing) at state and national levels. Hort Innovation chief executive officer Brett Fifield said the horticulture sectors’ strong outlook is spurred by a number of key drivers. “The data shows the Aussie horticulture sector is on a significant growth trajectory, driven largely by strong export growth from trade-focused commodities, as well as productivity increases and population growth,” Mr. Fifield said. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9547828/aussie-regions-spur-projected-4b-hike-in-horticulture-sector-new-report-shows/?utm_medium=email) [Full report here](https://www.horticulture.com.au/contentassets/5f9135b5a87a4212a70abc8bf10f80b4/contribution-of-australian-horticulture-industry-final-report.pdf)

#### Australian avocados get green light to export to India

Avocados Australia have announced that all 10 trial shipments of fresh Australian Hass avocados have been successfully received by Indian officials.

Market access to India was pending the successful despatch of these 10 trial shipments and now that this is complete audited and accredited Australian avocado growers can proceed with the next step toward broad market access to India. [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9547423/australian-avocados-get-green-light-to-export-to-india/?utm_medium=email)

#### India’s ban on rice exports raises fear of global food price rises

India has banned non-basmati white rice exports to curb domestic inflation, raising fears of further increases in global food prices just days after wheat and corn prices were sent climbing by Russia’s termination of a key grain deal. The immediate ban, introduced after heavy rains hit domestic crops, follows the failure of a 20% duty on international exports introduced in September to curb foreign demand, which has soared after extreme climate conditions hit production in countries.

India is the world’s largest rice exporter, accounting for more than 40% of global shipments. While the ban does not apply to higher-grade basmati rice – India’s best-known variety – non-basmati white rice accounts for about 25% of exports. The Indian government said the ban, introduced on Thursday evening, would “ensure adequate availability of non-basmati white rice in the Indian market” and lead to lowering of prices for domestic consumers. [Full article here](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2023/jul/21/india-ban-on-rice-exports-raises-fear-of-global-food-price-rises)

#### Indonesian Minister targets zero percent import duty on pineapple and banana exports

Trade Minister Zulkifli Hasan is targeting zero percent import duty on exports of pineapples and bananas from Indonesia to other countries. He has stated: "The pineapple and banana commodity from Lampung Province have dominated the world trade market."

"However, there are a number of obstacles to commodity trade with various countries, one of which is the import duty rate, which varies in each country, he said. "For example, if we want to export to Europe, Japan, and South Korea, usually they have their own entry tax. We are working on the application of zero percent import duty on pineapples and bananas.” [Full article here](https://www.freshplaza.com/europe/article/9547863/indonesian-minister-targets-zero-percent-import-duty-on-pineapple-and-banana-exports/?utm_medium=email)

#### EU to bow to chemical industry

A key element of the EU’s Green Deal could be dropped, as leaked document points to climbdown on hazardous chemicals ban

Leaked documents suggest the European Commission is set to renege on its commitment to “ban the most harmful chemicals in consumer products, allowing their use only where essential” and bow to pressure from the chemical industry. Thousands of hazardous substances were expected to be prohibited as part of Europe’s Green Deal, including so-called “forever chemicals” that build up in nature and humans over time.

“A leaked legislative document seen by the Guardian proposes three options that would restrict 1 per cent, 10 per cent or 50 per cent of products containing hazardous chemicals currently on the market,” the Guardian newspaper stated. “The EU typically selects the middle option.” [Full article here](https://www.fruitnet.com/eurofruit/eu-to-bow-to-chemical-industry/255017.article)

#### Taking a look at the Top 10 most expensive fruits in the world

Fruit will inevitably cost more or less, depending on the variety and where you are in the world. Still, there are of course the very exclusive fruits, that are a category on their own. You have the premium Yubari King Melon, harvested in the hills of Japan’s. Or there is the Ruby Roman Grape, another one of Japan’s most valued fruits. This originated from Ishikawa Province in Japan; Ruby Roman grapes were traded in their maiden exchange in 2008 for more than 20,000 Japanese yen.

Again in Japan, the island of Hokkaido is really where Densuke watermelons, also characterized as an ebony watermelons, are most often harvested. This melon currently ranks as among the most valuable both in Japan and indeed the entire globe. The most lucrative purchase had seen the so-called “king of melons,” Densuke Watermelon, traded off for above USD 100. [Full article here](https://www.enterpriseappstoday.com/top-10/most-expensive-fruits.html)

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