

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington, D. C.

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BEPQ-417

STERILIZATION OF IMPORTED VINIFERA GRAPES BY REFRIGERATION

(Approved and effective November 9, 1936.)

The method of sterilization herein authorized supersedes and cancels the treatment authorized in BPQ-362 and its supplements.

Recent experimental work by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the United States Department of Agriculture has proven that all stages of the Mediterranean fruit fly in fruit will be destroyed if the fruit is subjected to the following treatment:

"Cooling until the approximate center of the fruit in the package reaches a temperature of 34° F. and holding the fruit at or below that temperature for a period of 12 days."

On the basis of the evidence secured provision is made for the entry, under permit and sterilization, of grapes of the Vinifera type from regions in which the Mediterranean fruit fly occurs, at the port of New York and such other northern ports as may be subsequently approved, under the following conditions:

(1) The grapes must be packed in tight barrels or kegs or other approved containers so constructed as to prevent the escape from the container pending sterilization, of any stages of the Mediterranean fruit fly, should they be present. Any broken containers wherever found must be immediately repacked under the supervision of an inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine or the contents shall be immediately destroyed in a manner satisfactory to the inspector.

(2) Within twenty-four hours from the time of unloading, the grapes shall be delivered for treatment to an approved sterilization plant.

To provide necessary safeguards for movement to and handling at approved sterilization plants, those concerns designated to sterilize fruit are required to file an application and complete a written agreement with the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. The Bureau will approve only those plants which are adequately equipped to handle and sterilize the fruit.

Sterilization will be done under the supervision of



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plant quarantine inspectors of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine. These inspectors shall at all times be given access to fruit while in process of sterilization. They will supervise the movement of the fruit from the docks to and from the sterilization rooms.

Shipments offered for entry may be allowed to leave customs custody under redelivery bond for sterilization. Final release of the shipment by the Collector of Customs and cancellation of the bond will be effected after the inspector of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine has notified the Collector of Customs that the required treatment has been given.

(3) For the purpose of additional safeguards and to eliminate possible risk that might be occasioned by breakage of containers, the entry of grapes is limited to the period from October 1 to April 15, when susceptible fruits will not be available for oviposition by fruit flies should any escape prior to the containers being placed in the approved sterilization chambers.

In authorizing the entry of fruit into the United States, sterilized in accordance with the above requirements, it should be emphasized that inexactness and carelessness in applying the treatment may result in injury to the fruit, but, in event of resulting injury, neither the Department of Agriculture nor its employees will be responsible.

Lee A. Strong,
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