
From: Mary Baldwin [<mailto:ppf@aapt.net.au>]

Sent: Thursday, 23 June 2011 11:29 PM

To: BA - Plant Biosecurity Contact

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Comment on Draft Report of Apple imports from New Zealand

Dear sir/Madam,

As members of the Australian apple-growing industry, I think we are entitled to know why suddenly you have re-neged on all the protocols so far agreed on for the importation of New Zealand apples. Since all of your reasoning is supposed to be scientifically based, what changed so dramatically that you have deemed it no longer necessary for any independent assessors to inspect the fruit? Nobody has yet been able to explain the spread of fireblight to so many countries; why, since we are free of it, do we have to open ourselves up so as to welcome it in?

Might I point out that China sends its own inspectors(at our expense) to inspect fruit prior to it being packed and sent to China; Japan sends its own inspectors to inspect fruit prior to it being packed and sent to Japan. It is imperative that Australian inspectors check all orchards before they are allowed to export to Australia and verify that they are free of disease.

We travel regularly to Tasmania. We prefer our own Fuji apples to any that we've tasted over there. However, we accept the quarantine procedures; we accept that Tasmania, luckily, does not have fruit fly and respect the right of their inspectors to check our car/ belongings for fruit.

We have travelled to Western Australia, which, fortunately, does not have apple scab. All west-bound traffic is checked by WA fruit inspectors to ensure that no apples or apple material is taken over the border.

Additionally, I would like to point out that climatic conditions in New Zealand are very different to those over here; that conditions over here are considerably warmer and are going to therefore be much more favourable to the rapid proliferation of bacteria. . Consequently, "standard orchard practice" in New Zealand is likely to be far less strict than what we accept and expect over here.

Many growers in the Australian apple and pear industry have years of expertise in their field and have millions of dollars invested in land, trees, infrastructure and equipment. I am disgusted at your disregard for their intelligence, their concern for not only their own enterprises but for the future of the whole industry. Please respect their advice on how best to manage the New Zealand imports; once fireblight is here, it will be too late!

Mary Baldwin

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