

Mahoberberis, and *Mahonia*, known as barberry plants.

Species and varieties of these plants are categorized as either rust-resistant or rust-susceptible. Rust-susceptible plants pose a risk of spreading black stem rust or of contributing to the development of new races of the rust, and therefore are prohibited from moving interstate into or through any protected area listed in accordance with § 301.38–3. Rust-resistant plants do not pose such risks, and therefore may be moved into or through protected areas subject to the requirements in the regulations.

In accordance with § 301.38–2(a), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) maintains a list of *Berberis* species and varieties it has found to be rust-resistant at www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/barberry/ct_barberry.

Paragraph (c)(1) of § 301.38–2 provides that if the Administrator determines that an article not already listed is resistant to black stem rust, APHIS will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** proposing to add the article to the list of rust-resistant articles for black stem rust and request public comment. Following the close of the comment period, APHIS will review all comments received and will make a final determination regarding the designation that will be published in a second notice in the **Federal Register**.

In accordance with that process, on March 20, 2024, we published in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 19796–19797, Docket No. APHIS–2023–0050), a notice¹ proposing to add 32 varieties of *Berberis thunbergii* (Japanese barberry) to the list of black stem rust-resistant barberry species and varieties. The proposed additions were found, through testing by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the United States Department of Agriculture, to be resistant to the fungus (*Puccinia graminis*) that causes black stem rust.

We solicited comments concerning our proposal for 60 days ending May 20, 2024. We received two comments, both from members of the industry involved in breeding the varieties addressed in this action.

One commenter asked us to remove from the cultivar names all language after the nomenclatures that begin with ‘NCBT’ and ‘SMNBT’.

We will remove this nomenclature from our list of *Berberis* species and

varieties we have found to be rust-resistant.

The other commenter stated that *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. calliantha* ‘NCBX5’, which was confirmed resistant in 2017, was missing from the listing in the notice.

The commenter is correct that we mistakenly excluded *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. calliantha* ‘NCBX5’ from the notice. This article was found to be resistant to the fungus (*Puccinia graminis*) that causes black stem rust through testing by ARS in 2017 and should have been included in the notice. We will include *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. calliantha* ‘NCBX5’ in our list of *Berberis* species and varieties we have found to be rust-resistant. This article will bring the number of additions to 33, rather than 32.

The commenter also stated that, in our current list of rust-resistant *Berberis* species and varieties on the APHIS web page, the parentage listed for ‘NCBX3’ was incorrect. The variety is listed as *B. thunbergii* x *calliantha* ‘NCBX3’, but should be listed as *Berberis thunbergii* x *media* ‘NCBX3’.

The commenter is correct. We will fix this error by correctly listing *Berberis thunbergii* x *media* ‘NCBX3’ when we update our list of rust-resistant *Berberis* species and varieties.

Therefore, in accordance with the regulations in § 301.38–2(c)(1), we are announcing our decision to designate the following articles as rust-resistant:

- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Cital’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Coral Spice’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Crimson Cutie’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘James Blonde’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Lemon Cutie®’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Lemon Glow®’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Mr. Green Genes TM’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Purple Plume’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT3’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT4’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT8’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT9’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT10’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT11’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT12’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT13’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘NCBT14’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘Schu20022’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTA’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAB’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAJ’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAJ’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAJ’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAJ’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAJ’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAJ’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAJ’
- *Berberis thunbergii* ‘SMNBTAJ’
- *Berberis thunbergii* x *media* ‘NCBX9’
- *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. sieboldii* ‘NCBX10’
- *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. sieboldii* ‘NCBX11’

- *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. sieboldii* ‘NCBX12’
- *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. sieboldii* ‘NCBX13’
- *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. sieboldii* ‘NCBX14’
- *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. sieboldii* ‘NCBX15’
- *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. sieboldii* ‘NCBX16’
- *Berberis thunbergii* x *B. calliantha* ‘NCBX5’

These articles will be added to the list of rust-resistant regulated articles for black stem rust at <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/black-stem-rust-barberry>.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3. Section 301.75–15 issued under section 204, title II, Public Law 106–113, 113 Stat. 1501A–293; sections 301.75–15 and 301.75–16 issued under section 203, title II, Public Law 106–224, 114 Stat. 400 (7 U.S.C. 1421 note).

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of December 2024.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–30339 Filed 12–19–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2023–0040]

Notice of Decision To Authorize the Importation of Rosemary and Tarragon From Ethiopia Into the Continental United States

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our decision to authorize the importation of fresh leaves and stems of rosemary and fresh leaves and stems of tarragon from Ethiopia into the continental United States. Based on findings of pest risk analyses, which we made available to the public for review and comment through a previous notice, we have determined that the application of one or more designated phytosanitary measures will be sufficient to mitigate the risks of introducing or disseminating plant pests or noxious weeds via the importation of rosemary and tarragon from Ethiopia.

DATES: Imports may be authorized beginning December 20, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Gina Stiltner, Senior Regulatory Policy

¹ To view the notice, go to <https://www.regulations.gov/document/APHIS-2023-0050-0001>.

Specialist, Regulatory Coordination and Compliance, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737–1231; (518) 760–2468; Gina.L.Stiltner@USDA.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Under the regulations in “Subpart L–Fruits and Vegetables” (7 CFR 319.56–1 through 319.56–12, referred to below as the regulations), the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prohibits or restricts the importation of fruits and vegetables into the United States from certain parts of the world to prevent plant pests from being introduced into or disseminated within the United States.

Section 319.56–4 contains a performance-based process for approving the importation of fruits and vegetables that, based on the findings of a pest risk analysis, can be safely imported subject to one or more of the five designated phytosanitary measures listed in paragraph (b) of that section. Under that process, APHIS proposes to authorize the importation of a fruit or vegetable into the United States if, based on findings of a pest risk analysis, we determine that the measures can mitigate the plant pest risk associated with the importation of that fruit or vegetable. APHIS then publishes a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of the pest risk analysis that evaluates the risks associated with the importation of a particular fruit or vegetable. Following the close of the 60-day comment period, APHIS will issue a subsequent **Federal Register** notice announcing whether or not we will authorize the importation of the fruit or vegetable subject to the phytosanitary measures specified in the notice.

In accordance with that process, we published a notice¹ in the **Federal Register** on April 4, 2024 (89 FR 23537, Docket No. APHIS–2023–0040) in which we announced the availability, for review and comment, of pest risk analyses that evaluated the risks associated with the importation of fresh leaves and stems of rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*) and fresh leaves and stems of tarragon (*Artemisia dracuncululus*) from Ethiopia into the continental United States. The pest risk analyses consisted of risk assessments identifying pests of quarantine significance that could follow the pathway of the importation of fresh leaves and stems of rosemary and

tarragon into the continental United States from Ethiopia and risk management documents (RMDs) identifying phytosanitary measures to be applied to these commodities to mitigate the pest risk.

We solicited comments on the notice for 60 days, ending on June 3, 2024. We received no comments by that date.

Therefore, in accordance with § 319.56–4(c)(3)(iii), we are announcing our decision to authorize the importation into the continental United States of fresh leaves and stems of rosemary and fresh leaves and stems of tarragon from Ethiopia subject to the phytosanitary measures identified in the RMDs that accompanied the initial notice.

These conditions will be listed in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR) database (<https://acir.aphis.usda.gov/s/>).² In addition to these specific measures, each shipment must be subject to the general requirements listed in § 319.56–3 that are applicable to the importation of all fruits and vegetables.

Paperwork Reduction Act

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the recordkeeping and burden requirements associated with this action are included under the Office of Management and Budget control number 0579–0049.

E-Government Act Compliance

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is committed to compliance with the E-Government Act to promote the use of the internet and other information technologies, to provide increased opportunities for citizen access to Government information and services, and for other purposes. For information pertinent to E-Government Act compliance related to this notice, please contact Mr. Joseph Moxey, APHIS’ Paperwork Reduction Act Coordinator, at (301) 851–2533.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 1633, 7701–7772, and 7781–7786; 21 U.S.C. 136 and 136a; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 16th day of December 2024.

Michael Watson,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2024–30453 Filed 12–19–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–34–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS–2024–0024]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods; Membership Nominations

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice; soliciting nominations.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the USDA and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), the USDA is soliciting nominations for membership on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) and announcing potential charges for the 2025–2027 term. USDA seeks to appoint 30 members. Advisory Committee members serve a two-year term beginning September 2025 through September 2027. Members may be reappointed for one additional consecutive term at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture.

DATES: All nomination packages must be received by February 18, 2025.

ADDRESSES: Nomination packages should be sent by email to NACMCF@usda.gov, or mailed to: The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 1128 South Building, Attn: Kristal Southern, Designated Federal Officer, FSIS\OPHS\National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods, Washington, DC 20250.

Docket: For access to documents, call (202) 205–5046 to schedule a time to visit the FSIS Docket Room at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristal Southern, Designated Federal Officer, by email to NACMCF@usda.gov or by telephone at 202–937–4162.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: USDA is soliciting nominations for membership to the NACMCF. USDA seeks to appoint 30 members.

To obtain a scientific perspective that considers all stakeholders, USDA is seeking NACMCF nominees with scientific expertise in microbiology, risk assessment, public health, food science, and other relevant disciplines. USDA is seeking nominations for NACMCF from persons in academia, industry, and State governments, as well as all other interested persons with the required expertise.

All nominees will undergo a USDA background check. Advisory committee

¹ To view the notice and the supporting documents, go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2023–0040 in the Search field.

² On September 30, 2022, the APHIS Fruits and Vegetables Import Requirements (FAVIR) database was replaced by the ACIR database.