



In CY 2023, Division inspection staff conducted 9,346 inspections of high risk commodities resulting in 3,313 pests intercepted within the state's interior with 4.77% identified as serious pests of concern to Arizona's agricultural and horticultural industries.

1,992 International Export certificates were issued for the export of vegetable and ornamental seed, produce, nursery stock, wood products, and various other agricultural commodities. 2,166 Domestic Export Certificates were issued for commodity movement, domestically. Pre-clearance of plants for pests, most notably citrus stock, before distribution within the State is a major inspection task.

SAFEGUARDING MARKET ACCESS & FACILITATING COMMERCE

- Safeguarding the State through early detection of hazardous plant pests to minimize the impact of the introduction and the cost to stakeholders to mitigate it.
- Intensive inspection and certification of vegetables, nuts, citrus, ornamentals and various other commodities for domestic and international export; minimization of trade barriers.
- Establishment and enforcement of quarantines to prevent introduction of hazardous plant pests from other states that threaten agriculture (i.e. exotic fruit flies), the environment (i.e. cactus moth) and the public (i.e. red imported fire ant).
- Issuance of compliance agreements and permits to facilitate commerce among businesses within and outside of the state.

FUNDING TO SUPPORT AGRI- BUSINESS AND COMMERCE

Plant Services Section received funding through General Fund (\$4.1 million) and Federal (\$800 thousand) sources to support the safeguarding, production, market access and domestic/international movement of numerous Arizona produced commodities including:

Alfalfa	Onions (Dry)
Apples	Ornamentals (Nursery & Greenhouse)
Chili Peppers	Produce (All Types)
Citrus	Seed Potatoes
Corn (Grain & Fresh)	Small Grains (Wheat, Barley, Oats)
Cotton	Sod
Cotton Seed	Sorghum
Dates	Tree Nuts
Grapes	Tomatoes
Leafy Greens (Lettuce, etc.)	Vegetable Seed
Melons	Vegetable Transplants



Identification of potentially dangerous plant pests can be made accurately and quickly. This affords inspection staff the ability to respond in a more timely fashion to pest interceptions reducing the cost of potential eradications and minimizing the impacts on commerce.

COMMITMENT TO SERVICE

The Plant Services Section (PSS) continues its progressive efforts to improve the timeliness, efficiency and quality of customer service delivery in order to meet the demands of an expanding agricultural industry. PSS demonstrates a commitment to service through the following:

ON-LINE RESOURCES - Stakeholder access and interaction with the division is enhanced through web-based regulatory information, guidance and resources by industry grouping; fillable application forms and electronic submission to request certification services; and direct connections to local resources, including the division's regional offices, for expedited service.

EXPORT CERTIFICATION - Exports contribute \$4.2 Billion to Arizona Agriculture's \$23.3 billion economic impact on the State. Division staff conduct numerous, intensive inspections annually as requested by various industry stakeholders to facilitate the time-critical interstate (2,166 Domestic Export Certificates issued in CY 2023) and international (1,992 International Export Certificates issued in CY 2023) movement of agricultural commodities.

VOLUNTARY NURSERY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM - During calendar year 2023, 290 applications were received from Arizona nurseries requesting inspection and certification to comply with the import requirements of other states. Following inspection of each applicant's property, production practices and commodities to be exported, 270 certificates were issued.

EXPORT ENHANCEMENT

Arizona's economy benefits greatly from the division's strict maintenance of its aggressive pest detection program. In previous years, government quarantine officials from the People's Republic of China, Chile, Argentina, Thailand and Mexico reviewed the Division's pest detection efforts resulting in additional, or continued, market access for Arizona agricultural commodities and robust industry growth.

DRIVING EFFICIENCY AND CUSTOMER SERVICE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Digital Imaging System for Sample Identifications:

- Reduced costs to stakeholders with rapid determinations of interdicted pests
- Faster release of regulated products into the stream of commerce
- Facilitates immediate access to identification specialists around the globe

Comprehensive Database Applications:

- Real-time, results based management data to direct priorities and safeguarding activities for cost avoidance and improved short and long-term effectiveness
- Centralized ordering of supplies and inventory control = cost savings

GPS/GIS Systems:

- Enhanced accountability
- Improved logistics in routing inspectors through inspection/survey sites
- Ability to define situational areas for accurate cost assessments and execution of eradication/control projects

