



September 2025

Fact sheet: Final report for the review of biosecurity import requirements

Melons from Japan

Key points

- We released the final report for melons from Japan on 9 September 2025.
- It determined that the importation of commercially produced melons from Japan can be permitted from all commercial production areas, provided they meet specific conditions. It applies to all melon fruit (*Cucumis melo*), except oriental melon and oriental pickling melon.
- A number of risk management measures, in combination with an operational system, are recommended to reduce the biosecurity risk of these imports to an [acceptable level](#).
- The release of the final report is the completion of the risk analysis, but there are a number of further steps before trade can commence.

Summary of the final report

Pests requiring measures

The final report identifies 4 pests associated with commercially produced fresh melons from Japan that require risk management measures to reduce the biosecurity risk to an acceptable level. These pests are:

- fruit fly: pumpkin fruit fly (*Zeugodacus tau*)
- thrips: intonsa flower thrips (*Frankliniella intonsa*), western flower thrips (*Frankliniella occidentalis*) and melon thrips (*Thrips palmi*).

Recommended risk management measures

The recommended risk management measures, together with the operational system, will reduce the risks posed by the 4 identified pests, to achieve the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) for Australia. These measures are:

- for pumpkin fruit fly
 - a. pest free areas, pest free places of production or pest free production sites; or
 - b. fruit treatment considered to be effective against fruit flies
- for thrips
 - a. pre-export visual inspection and, if found, remedial action.

Next steps

The release of the final report is the completion of the risk analysis. Before imports can commence, we will:

- verify that Japan can meet the import conditions, including establishing an operational workplan with Japan detailing how it will meet the import conditions
- publish import conditions on the Biosecurity Import Conditions system ([BICON](#))
- issue import permits to importers who apply and can meet the import conditions.

It is important to note that the decision to commence imports will be a commercial decision between an exporter in Japan and an importer in Australia who can meet the import conditions. This means that we are unable to predict when or if trade will take place. However, we will keep industry up to date on any relevant developments.

More information

Why we conducted this risk analysis

Australia (as a World Trade Organization member) must meet its international obligations by assessing market access requests (import proposals). Where possible, we must develop import conditions that are scientifically justified and that do not unnecessarily restrict trade. Where the risk of the imports cannot be reduced to an [acceptable level](#), we will not permit the imports. Our trading partners use the same principles when assessing Australia's market access requests.

We conducted this risk analysis in response to a formal market access request from Japan to export Melons to Australia.

Process for this risk analysis

We announced the formal commencement of this risk analysis on 30 August 2023. We published a draft report on 17 October 2024 for a 60-calendar day public consultation period.

We considered all stakeholder comments in preparing the final report. Appendix C in the final report includes our response to these comments.

Countries with market access to Australia for melons

Australia currently permits imports of fresh melons from European countries, New Zealand and the United States of America (except Hawaii) and imports of oriental melon and rockmelon from the Republic of Korea. All imports must meet Australia's biosecurity import conditions.

Between 2015 and 2023, Australia did not import any *Cucumis melo* from any country. Prior to this, a single consignment of honeydew melons was imported from the United States. Since trade with the Republic of Korea commenced in 2024, Australia has imported 14 tonnes of oriental melons.

Food safety of imported melons

Fresh products imported into Australia for human consumption must comply with the Food Standards Code. Learn more about imported foods at [Food Standards Australia New Zealand](#).

Keep informed

For more information on this risk analysis, see our [website](#) or contact us (details below). To receive notices about plant biosecurity policies, [subscribe](#) to 'Biosecurity Risk Analysis Plant'.

Web aff.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis

Email imports@aff.gov.au

Phone 1800 900 090 (When prompted select option 1, then option 1)

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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