



Foreign Agricultural Service

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## Canada

### Pest/Disease Occurances

# Canada Prohibits Imports of Guatemalan Raspberries 1998

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**Report Highlights:** Canada's Food Inspection Agency has banned imports of fresh raspberries from Guatemala after an outbreak of the *Cyclospora* parasite this summer.

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Ottawa[CA1], CA

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has announced a ban on importations of Guatemalan raspberries. The action follows outbreaks of the Cyclospora parasite in Canada this summer and Health Canada identified Guatemalan raspberries as the most likely source. A similar ban in the United States has been in place for about a year. The following press release by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency outlines the announcement:

#### CFIA RESTRICTS ENTRY OF GUATEMALAN RASPBERRIES

Ottawa, September 24, 1998 -- The importation of Guatemalan raspberries into Canada will not be permitted this fall until Canadian officials are able to audit new Guatemalan inspection and production systems.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced today that it is taking this step to protect the health and safety of Canadian consumers, following outbreaks of the Cyclospora parasite in southern Ontario in May and June of this year. Guatemalan spring harvest raspberries were identified by Health Canada (HC) as the most likely source in these outbreaks.

Cyclospora cayetanensis is a water-borne parasite that causes acute gastrointestinal problems, but is not considered a serious risk to healthy people. Cyclosporiasis, as infection with Cyclospora is known, causes diarrhea, fatigue, abdominal pain, and loss of appetite and can last from a few days to a month or more.

The CFIA and Health Canada have decided that the importation of Guatemalan raspberries from the fall harvest will not be allowed until an examination of the Guatemalan production and inspection system can be conducted. A joint CFIA-HC audit and evaluation team will visit Guatemala in early November so that Guatemalan inspection and control systems can be audited under the stresses of full production.

If the Guatemalan systems are found by the inspection team to be satisfactory, raspberries certified as to their farm of origin will be permitted entry into Canada later this year.

Official Canadian import data does not separate imports of fresh raspberries from other similar type berries. The following table shows Canadian imports in HS category 0810.20 which is defined as raspberries, blackberries, mulberries and loganberries, fresh.

Canada: Imports of HS 0810.20; Fresh Raspberries, Blackberries, Mulberries and Loganberries, 1997		
Country	Quantity in metric tons	Value in \$C'000
United States	1,920	5,541
Chile	303	1,127
Guatemala	214	784
Others	29	110
Total	2,466	7,562
Source: Statistics Canada; TIERS		