Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

A 464.479
R 31
Cp. 3

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR 1961

PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

Growth Through Agricultural Progress

ARS 82-2-3 August 1961
Agricultural Research Service
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES, PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

Fiscal Year 1961

The Plant Quarantine Division has primary responsibility for preventing the entry of dangerous plant pests into the United States and the spread of pests from overseas U. S. areas to other parts of the country. The Division also has responsibility for certifying domestic plants and plant products to meet the import requirements of foreign countries. These responsibilities are met by inspection staffs at the major ports of entry where Division inspectors work in cooperation with Customs and other government agencies in the examination of pertinent articles and their carrying vehicles.

With a continuing increase in international travel and commerce comes a corresponding increase in the danger of pest entry. This year there were well over 160 million entries of people into the United States from foreign countries. When this figure is augmented by the number of people who traveled from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the American Virgin Islands to the continental United States, and were thus subject to plant quarantine inspection, the sum approximates the total population of the country. This is the equivalent of every person in the United States leaving the country and then returning. To this must be added the number of planes, trains, automobiles, and ships required for their transportation, and which also bring the many thousands of importations of both agricultural and nonagricultural cargoes that regularly bring plant pests to our shores and borders.

Nearly all plant pests intercepted at ports of entry arrive in one of three ways: (1) in unauthorized plant material in passengers' baggage, (2) in commercial importations of plants and plant products, and (3) with miscellaneous nonagricultural cargo. Of these three, passengers' baggage represents the greatest threat. In this fiscal year a total of 22,713,663 pieces of baggage received plant quarantine clearance.

With the entry of baggage increasing significantly each year, it has become clear that some effective measures need be developed to supplement inspection. In the belief that pest-carrying articles brought in by travelers could be materially reduced by a better informed public, a number of measures have been taken to accomplish that purpose, including the following:

- Display cards in guest rooms of selected overseas hotels.
- Bilingual warning notices distributed at Mexican Border ports.
- Motionpicture films for showing on passenger liners.
- Film and slide announcements for TV showing.
- Customs baggage declaration made specific as to articles of plant quarantine significance.
- Press releases of newsworthy plant quarantine articles.
- Arrangements made for comments on plant quarantine restrictions to be included in brochures issued with passports.
- Agricultural attaches thoroughly briefed.
- Armed services regulations revised to include restrictions of plant quarantine significance.
- Leaflets for distribution with ticket sales for overseas.

Statistically, the number of interceptions of plant pests this year was 15% less than last year, but still 20% greater than the previous five-year average. Last year's interceptions were particularly high, 60% above the previous five-year average. This year's interceptions of insects, plant diseases, snails, nematodes, and mites included many of the world's most destructive plant pests. Some of the more significant pests and the number of times intercepted were:

Black spot of citrus.....	255
Citrus canker.....	125
European cherry fruitfly.....	69
Golden nematode.....	27
Khapra beetle.....	202
Mediterranean fruitfly.....	195
Mediterranean land snail.....	64
Mexican fruitfly.....	151
Oriental fruitfly.....	22
Olive fruitfly.....	57
Pink bollworm.....	33
Sweet orange scab.....	163
West Indian fruitfly.....	142
Yanone (Japanese citrus) scale.....	467

This was an increase of 37% over last year in the interception of these pests, despite the decrease of 15% in total interceptions made this year as compared with last year.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

The Airborne Hitchhiker. On April 6 a live adult of Melolontha melolontha (L.) was intercepted at New York in a plane arriving from France. This chafer, which has never been established in North America, is destructive in both its larval and adult forms and in Europe attacks more than 60 different fruits, vegetables, field crops, ornamental plants and trees. Within five days ten more interceptions were made and crew members arriving from Paris reported that the beetle was literally swarming around Orly Airport there. Arrangements were immediately made for an aerosol disinsectization treatment for all planes arriving from Orly. Division representatives in Western Europe were promptly notified and made arrangements for the disinsectization of flights prior to departure from Paris. A total of 38 infested planes were found between April 6 and April 25 at Anchorage, Boston, Bradley Field (Connecticut), Chicago, and McGuire Air Force Base (New Jersey). Plane treatments were discontinued on May 1, the beetle flight season having ended.

Facilitation of Travel and Commerce. In furtherance of the policy of the Division to impose a minimum of impediment to foreign travel and commerce, consistent with proper precaution against plant pest dissemination, the Division actively participated in the following measures to that end:

- Establishment of Interagency Group on International Aviation (IGIA). This new interagency group, for the development of recommendations to the Secretary of State, consists of the Administrator of FAA and representatives of the Departments of State, Defense, and Commerce, and the Civil Aeronautics Board. A staff member of the Plant Quarantine Division was designated to represent the Department of Agriculture for participation on an ad hoc basis.
- Water Transportation Facilitation Committee. This newly formed interagency committee provides for coordination on the national level and will make appropriate recommendations to the State Department as to the U. S. position for international consideration. A staff member of the Plant Quarantine Division was named as the Department's representative on this committee.
- Pest Identifiers at Ports of Entry. To facilitate the handling of infested commodities and carriers, the Division has designated fourteen specifically trained port inspectors as pest identifiers within the field of their specialization and familiarity. The fields include entomology, phytopathology, malacology, nematology, and acarology.

Export Increase. With the accelerated development of new nations in various parts of the world and food famine in some of the more populous areas, a wider demand for American agricultural products developed, particularly cereal grains and grain products. This was reflected in an increase not only in the quantity of plant materials requiring inspection and certification to meet the phytosanitary requirements of destination countries but in the number of countries involved. This year a total of 226 commodities were certified to 158 different countries as compared with last year's 110 commodities to 129 countries. Also, an additional 1511 certificates were required.

General Cargo Problem. Pest infested or contaminated general nonplant cargoes are requiring increased attention by Division inspectors. During this fiscal year, for example, the findings of khapra beetle were responsible for the fumigation of 38 ships from foreign areas as well as 66 lots of general cargo. Over 140,000 boxes and bales of 15 different types of cargo from 12 countries were involved. In addition, large quantities of general cargo required fumigation because of contamination with snails of agricultural importance.

Statistical Summaries

The following statistical summaries of activities of the Plant Quarantine Division appear on the succeeding pages:

- Table 1. Airplane Inspection Activities
- Table 2. Ship Inspection Activities
- Table 3. Mexican Border Inspection Activities
- Table 4. Foreign Mail Inspection
- Table 5. Transit Inspection
- Table 6. Cargo Inspection
- Table 7. Quarantine Material Interceptions
- Table 8. Plant Pest Interceptions
- Table 9. Inspection Activities Confined to Hawaii,
Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands
 - a. Fruits and Vegetables
 - b. Domestic Mail Packages
 - c. Other Inspection
- Table 10. Activities Performed at Special Inspection Stations
 - a. Departmental Propagative Material Importations
 - b. Other Propagative Material Importations
 - c. Departmentally-Grown Material
 - d. District of Columbia Regulations
 - e. Departmental Non-Propagative Material
- Table 11. Fruit Treated in Mexico
- Table 12. Inspection of Plant Materials in Europe
- Table 13. Animal Quarantine Inspection Activities
- Table 14. Comparative Summary of Activities for F. Y. (1956-1961)

TABLE 1.--AIRPLANE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1961

Origin	Airplanes				
	Inspected	With Prohibited Material	Passengers Processed	Baggage (Pieces of)	Cargo (Pieces of)
Foreign	104,027	41,334	3,333,765	8,916,910	576,341
Domestic 1/	548	86	5,769	12,066	65
Predeparture 2/	19,644	5,164	1,033,341	2,523,282	82,255
Other	6,278	198	67,843	136,500	-----
Total	130,497	46,782	4,440,718	11,588,758	658,661
Australia and New Zealand 3/	617	128	32,121	76,573	69

1/ Planes originating in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and landing on the mainland.

2/ Planes inspected in Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Bahama Islands, and Bermuda prior to departure for the mainland of the United States.

3/ Predeparture inspection services performed in Hawaii, under the provisions of a Cooperative Agreement, prior to departure to Australia and New Zealand.

TABLE 2.--SHIP INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1961

Origin	Ships			
	Inspected	With Prohibited Material	Passengers Processed	Pieces of Baggage Inspected
Foreign	55,261	23,486	1,013,961	3,377,801
Domestic <u>1</u> /	1,788	346	61,007	235,478
Total	57,049	23,832	1,074,968	3,613,279

1/ Ships originating in Hawaii and Puerto Rico and docking at mainland ports.

TABLE 3.--MEXICAN BORDER INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1961

Vehicles	Coaches and Pullmans	Braceros <u>1</u> /	Baggage	Freight Cars		
				Inspected	Fumigated	Cleaned
24,249,712	1,323	298,199	7,435,053	62,845	1	1,323

1/ Mexican Agricultural Laborers entering United States for seasonal work under contract.

TABLE 4.--FOREIGN MAIL INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1961

Inspected	Of Plant Quarantine Interest 1/	Entry Under Permit	Refused Entry
37,787,959	239,488	17,235	1,092

1/ Restricted articles, such as plants, plant products, plant pests and soil.

TABLE 5.--TRANSIT INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1961 1/

Shipments Inspected	Federal Violations Reported	Shipments Reported to States
600,740	307	236

1/ The interstate movement of plants, plant products, and other regulated articles.

TABLE 6.--CARGO INSPECTION, FISCAL YEAR 1961

Entries Under Permit	Misc. Man Hours Inspection 1/	Packages Treated or Cleaned 2/	Export Certification Inspection	
			Export Certificates Issued	Containers Shipped
74,212	51,298	2,606,957	36,226	37,952,647

1/ Inspection of non-regulated cargo shipments for pest risks.

2/ This does not represent products treated aboard ship while en route to the United States.

TABLE 7.--QUARANTINE MATERIAL INTERCEPTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1961 1/

Baggage	Cargo	Mail	Quarters	Stores	Total
191,435	2,456	1,717	18,681	109,314	323,603

1/ Plants, plant products and other regulated articles refused entry.

TABLE 8.--PLANT PEST INTERCEPTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1961

Kind	Consumption 1/	Non-Entry 2/	Propagation 3/	Miscellaneous 4/	Local 5/	Total
Insects	9,114	3,797	5,281	336	2,090	20,618
Diseases 6/..	1,440	2,206	1,595	31	645	5,917
Other	621	236	859	59	57	1,832
Total ...	11,175	6,239	7,735	426	2,792	28,367

1/ Pests found on material of foreign origin which is to be used for food, processing or manufacturing.

2/ Pests infesting or infecting material found in ship and plane stores.

3/ Pests found in material entering for propagation.

4/ Pests found in transit inspection and export certification.

5/ Pests found in surveys in vicinity of ports of entry.

6/ Diseases includes nematodes.

TABLE 9.--INSPECTION ACTIVITIES CONFINED TO HAWAII, PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS, FISCAL YEAR 1961

a. Fruits and Vegetables

Item	Certified		Uncertified		Entered From British Virgin Islands into Virgin Islands of the U.S.
	Inspection Basis	Treatment Basis	Passed	Refused	
Shipments	3,450	954	11,122	15	1,078
Containers	436,446	170,273	872,776	1,541	4,516
Pounds $\frac{1}{2}$	16,960	-----	-----	-----	255,219

$\frac{1}{2}$ Represents bulk shipments only of certified and uncertified material and all shipments from British Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands of the U. S.

b. Domestic Mail Packages

Certified for Movement to Mainland	Total Handled			Certified	Refused
	Opened	Refused	Returned		
1,413,074	255,505	176	420		

c. Other Inspection

Hold Baggage	Automobiles	Cut Flowers and Leis	Express Packages
19,917	4,794	451,281	23,314

TABLE 10.--ACTIVITIES PERFORMED AT SPECIAL INSPECTION STATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1961

a. Departmental Propagative Material Importations 1/

Item	Entered	Postentry Quarantine 2/	Treated	Refused Entry
Shipments	881	159	463	1
Plant Units	11,558	3,191	5,428	-----
Seeds (Pounds)	11,903	46	10,769	-----

1/ Regulated material imported and grown under United States Department of Agriculture sponsorship.
 2/ Materials to be grown under conditions of quarantine isolation for a period of time after importation under continued PQ-State surveillance.

b. Other Propagative Material Importations

Item	Entered	Postentry Quarantine 1/	Treated	Refused Entry
Shipments	7,699	714	6,117	268
Plant Units	7,677,739	1,040,541	5,347,893	93,762
Seeds (Pounds)	222,317	35	213,900	57

1/ Material to be grown under conditions of quarantine isolation for a period of time after importation under continued PQ-State surveillance.

c. Departmentally Grown Material

Shipments	Inspected	Units	Seeds (Pounds)	Treated
Domestic	1,969	55,415	3,189	356
Foreign	1,958	19,283	4,877	949

d. District of Columbia Regulations

Shipments	Inspected	Treated	D. C. Violations
Entering D. C.	1,957	13	----
Leaving D. C.	7,334	139	----

e. Departmental Non-Propagative Material

Number of Lots Treated 2,293

TABLE 11.--FRUIT TREATED IN MEXICO, FISCAL YEAR 1961 1/

Kind of Fruit	Mangos	Oranges	Tangerines	Plums
Pounds	315,208	20,959,520	6,911,960	4,576

1/ Fruit treated under supervision of plant quarantine inspectors to permit shipment into the United States.

TABLE 12.--INSPECTION OF PLANT MATERIALS IN EUROPE, FISCAL YEAR 1961 1/

Name of Country	Bulbs		Number of Onion Sets	Quarts of Cornels	Pounds of Grapes	Pounds of Witloof or Chicory
	Number of Shipments	Number of Bulbs				
Belgium	369	15,108,545	-----	-----	3,282	1,317,513
France	38	883,590	-----	-----	-----	-----
Germany	20	1,329,850	-----	-----	-----	-----
Italy	13	633,085	-----	-----	-----	-----
Netherlands	4,906	469,189,023	24,001,450	4,960	-----	-----
Total	5,346	487,144,093	24,001,450	4,960	3,282	1,317,513

1/ Preshipment inspection and clearance of Plant Material in countries of origin performed under Cooperative Agreements.

TABLE 13.--ANIMAL QUARANTINE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1961 1/

Interceptions	Pounds
43,910	497,961

1/ Services performed under animal quarantine regulations.

TABLE 14.-- COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (1956 - 1961)

Item	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
SHIPS						
Inspected.....	50,718	54,642	55,348	58,995	60,394	57,049
With Prohibited Material.....	15,135	17,544	17,892	22,169	22,386	23,832
Passengers.....	1,079,498	1,039,993	1,007,248	1,105,225	1,092,416	1,074,968
Baggage Inspected.....	3,116,675	3,281,556	3,098,998	3,486,640	3,988,338	3,613,279
PLANES						
Inspected.....	96,915	110,328	120,741	133,723	139,415	130,497
Hawaii to Aust. and N. Z.....	436	616	490	550	453	617
With Prohibited Material.....	37,296	42,404	43,208	46,868	47,741	46,782
Passengers.....	2,478,079	2,990,740	3,666,355	3,764,816	4,277,463	4,440,718
Baggage Inspected.....	5,880,433	7,535,088	8,781,520	9,733,480	10,776,357	11,588,758
Cargo Inspected.....	573,116	830,424	786,381	932,091	831,146	658,661
MAIL INSPECTION						
Packages.....	3,138,053	7,779,620	35,930,743	37,391,885	37,903,668	37,787,959
Packages released under Permit	6,887	6,311	7,389	16,011	16,097	17,235
Packages refused under Entry..	1,437	1,795	2,029	1,464	1,274	1,092
TRANSIT INSPECTION						
Shipments Inspected.....	975,098	2,503,269	805,783	729,174	719,077	600,740
Federal Violations.....	426	1,034	330	327	204	307
Shipments reported to States..	624	713	643	396	638	236

L/ Increase is due to the adoption of a more accurate method of counting packages.

TABLE 14.--COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES (1956 - 1961)--Continued

Item	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
MEXICAN BORDER TRAFFIC INSP.						
Vehicles Entering.....	17,262,188	18,453,115	19,434,535	21,119,747	22,656,765	24,249,712
Baggage Inspected.....	4,640,249	4,787,488	5,387,531	8,111,060	7,260,498	7,435,053
Freight Cars Entering.....	101,167	106,355	89,055	1/ 70,479	1/ 66,510	1/ 62,845
Freight Cars Fumigated.....	155	65	56	20	3	1
Coaches and Pullmans Entering.	2,191	2,253	1,488	947	1,238	1,323
Shipments Ctd. for Entry on the Mainland.....	13,240	13,522	14,809	4,045	4,093	3,450
Shipments Ctd. for Entry on the Mainland after Treatment..	2,167	1,994	2,438	1,354	1,110	954
Entries of Material under Permit	77,617	68,861	68,647	79,731	82,815	74,212
Export Certificates Issued.....	45,524	47,592	50,072	36,372	34,715	36,226
Packages Cleaned and Treated....	1,715,050	2,070,180	1,326,189	1,614,016	1,831,688	2,606,957
Miscellaneous Inspection - Man Hours.....	21,502	31,297	30,414	37,209	44,630	51,298
Plant Pest Interceptions 2/.....	17,504	15,058	18,198	25,296	30,230	25,575
Quarantine Material Interceptions	251,809	290,959	311,391	319,713	314,367	323,603

1/ Does not include oil tank cars which are estimated to be approximately 20% of the total freight cars entered.

2/ Does not include local pest interceptions.