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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FISCAL YEAR 1959 PLANT QUARANTINE DIVISION

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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

Work Performed During Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1959

The Plant Quarantine Division is responsible for preventing the entry of foreign plant pests. The term "plant pests" includes insects, mites, snails, nematodes, fungi, bacteria, viruses, and similar organisms. The Division also shares in the responsibility for preventing the spread of plant pests within the United States. This is accomplished by (1) administering a system of plant quarantines affecting the importation of plants, plant parts, plant products, and soil from foreign countries; (2) regulating the movement of such articles between offshore U. S. areas and from these areas to the mainland; (3) the inspection in transit of interstate shipments of products restricted by Federal domestic plant quarantines; and (4) the inspection and appropriate treatment of nonplant articles and carriers (such as ships and planes) which may be infested, infected, or contaminated with plant pests being moved or having moved from foreign or offshore U. S. areas. Additional responsibilities include regulating the importation and interstate movement of plant pests as such and the inspection and certification of domestically grown plants and plant products to meet the plant quarantine import requirements of countries of destination. The legal basis for these responsibilities is the Plant Quarantine Act of 1912, the Federal Plant Pest Act of 1957, and other related Acts.

This year marks the 47th year of continuous plant quarantine activities. From the very beginning after passage of the Act of 1912 there was inspection of imported nursery stock and certain other plant items, but it was not until the following year that a Federal inspector was assigned to regular duty at a port of entry. In 1959 regular inspection services were carried on at 82 ports of entry and limited inspections in six foreign countries.

The principal activities of the Division are concerned with inspections and appropriate safeguards involving:

- (1) Plants and plant products; including fruits and vegetables, propagative material, and articles intended for processing.

- (2) General cargo; for incidental contamination with significant plant pests.
- (3) Baggage.
- (4) Means of conveyance: ships, planes, motor vehicles, railway cars.
- (5) Mail parcels.

Plant pest movement largely parallels the movement of people it follows that an increase in foreign travel is significant in the risk of pest dissemination. Division interception records bear out this relationship. In Fiscal Year 1959, which was a record year for foreign travel, over 25,000 lots of destructive plant pests were intercepted at ports of entry. In other words, an important plant pest was stopped at our shores, borders, airports, or in the mails on an average of once every 20 minutes during the year. This was an increase of 39 percent over the previous year and a new record. To name only a few of the more familiar pests: the khaprabeetle was intercepted 43 times; the Mediterranean fruit fly, 87; the olive fly, 43; the golden nematode, 75; citrus canker, 82; the West Indian fruit fly, 98; and black spot of citrus was taken 211 times.

Since World War II, air traffic requiring inspection has increased nearly 700 percent, ocean traffic more than 100 percent, and vehicular traffic across the Mexican Border 500 percent.

Some Highlights of the Year

The recent opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway has added well over 2,000 miles to our "seacoast" and made it possible for foreign shipping, and thus foreign pests, to come directly into the Great Lakes ports. This could include significant pests of major crops in the region, such as the durra stem borer (corn and related plants), golden nematode (potatoes), and the khapra beetle (stored grains and grain products). Prior to the opening of the Seaway, extensive surveys were made as to the character of the new traffic to be expected, likely ports of call, readiness of ports to handle ships and their cargoes, and the need for additional inspection personnel and facilities. These surveys and associated operations planning included conferences with Canadian plant quarantine officials and agreements on exchanging information of mutual interest.

Traffic from Mexico has been increasing on an average of a million vehicles a year and last year reached an all-time high of more than 21 million. Many of these were tourist cars returning to homes all

over the United States, some coming from as far south as Costa Rica and Nicaragua where the Mediterranean fruit fly is established and thus providing this pest a way of reaching us overland.

Miscellaneous cargo has required more attention than heretofore. Snails, khapra beetles, nematodes, and other pests are being found regularly on packing crates, automobiles, and a wide variety of other articles not usually thought of as a means of plant pest introduction. The only way to detect the presence of stowaway pests in these situations is by painstaking examination of vast amounts of such items on ships and piers, and at air and border ports. For example, khapra beetle was found 31 times in miscellaneous cargo, ships' holds, and dry stores. Fumigation or other treatment was required in all these cases. (This notoriously injurious pest has been found in limited distribution in a few localities in the southwestern part of the United States. Federal and State governments, and industries in interest, have spent over \$7 million toward its eradication.)

The issuance of the Federal Plant Pest Regulations in 1959 significantly strengthened the Division's effectiveness in avenues of pest entry not heretofore adequately covered. These regulations provide for the inspection and treatment, or other emergency measures as may be appropriate, of any foreign product or article of any character whatsoever that may be instrumental in disseminating plant pests into the United States. In this category carriers, such as aircraft, ships, and motor vehicles, are specifically included. Other provisions of the regulations prescribe the conditions and procedures for handling (1) importation and interstate movement of plant pests as such; (2) the entry of soil from overseas areas; and (3) the disposition of garbage arriving from abroad. In the procedures for handling plant pests and soil, due consideration was given to the continued movement necessary for approved research projects. For example, an arrangement was made to provide for the orderly movement of cereal rusts and smuts needed in the research work being done on these important diseases.

Arrangements were completed with flower bulb growers in the Federal Republic of Germany whereby U. S. plant quarantine inspectors will inspect, and supervise treatment as may be required, in that country prior to shipment to the United States. This will aid materially in keeping bulb insects and diseases from reaching U. S. ports of entry and give added protection to the agriculture and horticulture of this country. Similar arrangements had already been made for country of origin inspection in The Netherlands, Belgium, France, and Italy.

In keeping with the Division policy of imposing a minimum of restrictions on foreign travel and commerce consistent with adequate precautions against pest introductions, the quarantines and regulations are continually reviewed. During the year it was possible to modify a number of regulations that not only afforded greater protection from pest entry but actually lessened impediments to the entry of a variety of commodities, primarily by improved fumigation procedures. In addition, the prohibition against the importation of yams was removed and their entry was made subject to fumigation. Also, the protection provided by the quarantines and regulations was extended to cover importations into Guam, after their modification to meet the peculiar requirements of that island.

Statistical Summaries

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

1. Airplane Inspection Activities.
2. Ship Inspection Activities.
3. Inspection Activities Relating to Mexican Border.
4. Foreign Mail Inspection Activities.
5. Transit Inspection Activities.
6. Inspection of Cargo.
7. Quarantine Material Interceptions. (By Activity)
8. Plant Pest Interceptions.
9. Inspection Activities Relating to Offshore U. S. Areas.
10. Departmental Propagative Material Importations.
11. Other Propagative Material Importations.
12. Departmentally-Grown or Sponsored Material.
13. Inspection under District of Columbia Regulations.
14. Inspection of Bulbs in Europe.
15. Fruit Treated in Mexico and Cuba.
16. Comparative Summary of Activities; 1954 - 1959.

Table 1.--AIRPLANE INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Origin	Airplane				
	Inspected	With Prohibited Material	Passengers Processed	Baggage (Pieces of)	Cargo (Pieces of)
Foreign.....	116,830	42,778	3,121,654	8,280,269	851,947
Domestic <u>1</u> /.....	253	8	1,324	2,571	170
Predeparture <u>2</u> /.....	16,047	4,061	636,953	1,436,916	79,974
Other.....	593	21	4,885	13,724	---
Total.....	133,723	46,868	3,764,816	9,733,480	932,091
Australia and New Zealand <u>3</u> /.....	550	146	22,039	56,163	160

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

2/ Planes inspected in Hawaii and Puerto Rico prior to departure for other parts of United States.

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

Table 2.--SHIP INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Item	Ships			
	Inspected	With Prohibited Material	Passengers Processed	Pieces of Baggage Inspected
Foreign.....	57,371	21,761	1,051,745	3,270,688
Domestic <u>1</u> /.....	1,624	408	53,480	215,952
Total.....	58,995	22,169	1,105,225	3,486,640

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

Table 3.--INSPECTION ACTIVITIES CONFINED TO MEXICAN BORDER, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Vehicles	Coaches and Pullmans	Braceros <u>1</u> /	Baggage	Freight Cars	
				Inspected	Fumigated
21,119,747	947	447,883	8,111,060	70,479	20
					1,478

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

Table 4.--FOREIGN MAIL INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Inspected	Of Plant Quarantine Interest <u>1/</u>	Entry Under Permit	Refused Entry
37,391,885	209,424	16,011	1,464

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

Table 5.--TRANSIT INSPECTION ACTIVITIES, FISCAL YEAR 1959 1/

Shipments Inspected	Federal Violations Reported	Shipments Reported to States
729,174	327	396

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

Table 6.--INSPECTION OF CARGO, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Entries Under Permit	Misc. Man Hours Inspection <u>1/</u>	Packages Treated or Cleaned <u>2/</u>	Export Certificates Issued	Containers Shipped
79,731	37,209	1,614,016	36,372	18,186,926

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.--NUMBER OF QUARANTINE MATERIAL INTERCEPTIONS (BY ACTIVITY), FISCAL YEAR 1959 1/

Baggage	Cargo	Mail	Quarters	Stores	Total
202,722	1,749	2,278	17,134	95,830	319,713

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

Table 8.--NUMBER OF PLANT PEST INTERCEPTIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Kind	Consumption <u>1/</u>	Non-Entry <u>2/</u>	Propagation <u>3/</u>	Miscellaneous <u>4/</u>	Local <u>5/</u>	Total
Insects.....	9,691	3,668	5,003	188	2,080	20,630
Diseases <u>6/</u>	2,116	2,506	1,686	37	328	6,673
Other.....	305	16	72	8	23	424
Total.....	12,112	6,190	6,761	233	2,431	27,727

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 AND OFFSHORE POSSESSIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Item	Fruits and Vegetables		
	Certified		Entered
	Inspection Basis	Treatment Basis	
Shipments.....	4,045	1,354	1,482
Containers.....	461,120	247,889	5,565
Pounds.....	24,074	---	383,746
Domestic Mail Packages			
Certified for movement in Mainland.....	Inspected	Opened	Refused
	1,078,099	244,082	424
Other Inspection			
Hold Baggage	Automobiles	Cut Flowers and Leis	Express Packages
15,605	4,517	372,766	7,850

Table 10.--INSPECTION OF DEPARTMENTAL PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL IMPORTATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1959 1/

Item	Entered	Postentry <u>2/</u>	Treated	Refused Entry
Shipments.....	921	153	590	2
Plant Units.....	13,386	4,072	4,305	26
Seeds (Pounds).....	8,265	34	6,538	--

1/ Regulated material imported and grown under United States Department of Agriculture sponsorship.

2/ Material to be grown under conditions of isolation for a period of time under continued observation.

Table 11.--INSPECTION OF OTHER PROPAGATIVE MATERIAL IMPORTATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Item	Entered	Postentry <u>1/</u>	Treated	Refused Entry
Shipments.....	7,394	755	6,062	254
Plant Units.....	6,126,444	1,411,118	5,468,660	22,461
Seeds (Pounds).....	118,817	1	111,844	725

1/ Material to be grown under conditions of isolation for a period of time under continued observation.

Table 12.--INSPECTION OF DEPARTMENTALLY-GROWN OR SPONSORED MATERIAL, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Shipment	Inspected	Units	Seeds (Pounds)	Treated
Domestic.....	2,096	118,510	4,074	251
Foreign.....	1,716	27,079	4,805	1,041

Table 13.--INSPECTION UNDER DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA REGULATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1959

Shipment	Inspected	Treated	D.C. Violations
Entering D. C.....	11,197	---	1
Leaving D. C.....	584	910	---

Table 14.--INSPECTION OF BULBS IN EUROPE, FISCAL YEAR 1959 1/

Name of Country	Number of Shipments	Number of Bulbs
Holland.....	4,500	450,454,038
Belgium.....	422	14,791,646
France.....	20	1,214,892
Italy.....	14	792,750
Total.....	4,956	467,253,326

1/ Preshipment inspection and clearance of flowerbulbs in countries of origin performed under cooperative agreements.

Table 15.--FRUIT TREATED IN MEXICO AND CUBA, FISCAL YEAR 1959 1/

Kind of Fruit	Grapefruit	Oranges	Plums	Tangerines	Mangoes	Yams
Pounds.....	162,368	22,113,700	249,222	6,841,186	2,712,539	63,895

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

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BY FISCAL YEAR (1954 - 1959)

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
SHIPS						
Inspected.....	52,311	51,757	50,718	54,642	55,348	58,995
With Prohibited Material.....	15,504	14,443	15,135	17,544	17,892	22,169
Passengers.....	1,169,801	1,264,992	1,079,498	1,039,993	1,007,248	1,105,225
Baggage Inspected.....	141,516	2,981,907	3,116,675	3,281,556	3,098,998	3,486,640
PLANES						
Inspected.....	76,718	88,873	96,915	110,328	120,741	133,723
Hawaii to Aust. and N. Z.....	311	332	436	616	490	550
With Prohibited Material.....	26,734	30,239	37,296	42,404	43,208	46,868
Passengers.....	1,733,928	2,064,645	2,478,079	2,990,740	3,666,355	3,764,816
Baggage Inspected.....	2,275,714	4,592,254	5,880,433	7,535,088	8,781,520	9,733,480
Cargo Inspected.....	331,706	499,075	573,116	830,424	786,381	932,091
Mail Inspection						
Packages.....	3,949,054	3,253,591	3,138,053	7,779,620	35,930,743*	37,391,885*
Packages released under Permit.	10,591	7,114	6,887	6,311	7,389	16,011
Packages refused under Entry...	1,714	1,552	1,437	1,795	2,029	1,464
Transit Inspection						
Shipments Inspected.....	1,088,641	881,097	975,098	2,503,269	805,783	729,174
Federal Violations.....	584	570	426	1,034	330	327
Shipments reported to States....	1,229	1,056	624	713	643	396

* Increase is due to the adoption of a more accurate method of counting packages in the Fiscal Year 1958 and 1959

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES BY FISCAL YEAR(1954 - 1959)

Item	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Mexican Border Traffic Insp.						
Vehicles Entering.....	14,367,589	15,240,649	17,262,188	18,453,115	19,434,535	21,119,747
Baggage Inspected.....	3,664,803	4,107,413	4,640,249	4,787,488	5,387,531	8,111,060
Freight Cars Entering.....	81,481	85,768	101,167	106,355	89,055 1/2	70,479 1/2
Freight Cars Fumigated.....	65	160	155	65	56	20
Coaches and Pullmans Entering..	3,348	2,265	2,191	2,253	1,488	947
Shipments Ctfd. for Entry on the Mainland.....	9,266	11,726	13,240	13,522	14,809	4,045
Shipments Ctfd. for Entry on the Mainland after Treatment...	6,814	2,249	2,167	1,994	2,438	1,354
Entries of Material under Permit.	69,317	68,586	77,617	68,861	68,647	79,731
Export Certificates Issued.....	33,476	34,784	45,524	47,592	50,072	36,372
Packages Cleaned and Treated.....	827,656	1,147,308	1,715,050	2,070,180	1,326,189	1,614,016
Miscellaneous Inspections.....	2,025,071	--	--	--	--	--
Miscellaneous Inspections - Man Hours.....	--	17,584	21,502	31,297	30,414	37,209
Plant Pest Interception <u>2/</u>	15,910	18,504	17,504	15,058	18,198	25,296
Quarantine Material Interception	170,603	223,095	251,809	290,959	311,391	319,713

1/ Decrease in number of freight cars entering is due to the discontinuance of counting oil tank cars during the Fiscal Year 1958. Oil tank cars in previous years are estimated to be approximately 20% of the total freight cars entered.

2/ Does not include local pest interceptions