

# Spanish Clementines

**Q. Will the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) allow clementines from Spain into the United States?**

**A.** Under a new final rule issued October 15, 2002, clementines from Spain will be allowed into the United States provided certain requirements are met.

**Q. What are the requirements to import clementines from Spain?**

**A.** The requirements for importing clementines from Spain involve a new inspection regimen that includes preclearing the fruit as well as sampling prior to, and after, the required cold treatment aboard ship. Also, farmers in Spain must grow clementines in accordance with a Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) management program established by their government.

**Q. What is cold treatment?**

**A.** Cold treatment means that the temperature of the fruit is lowered significantly for a period of time to eliminate any fruit flies that may be in the fruit.

**Q. Will the cold treatment requirements be sufficient to eliminate Medflies?**

**A.** USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has updated the cold treatment requirements for clementines from Spain to ensure that Medflies will not be able to survive the treatment. In most cases, the time requirements for cold treatment have been extended by 2 days.

**Q. Can clementines from Spain be imported into citrus-producing States?**

**A.** No. Clementines from Spain cannot be imported into, or distributed to, Arizona, California, Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Puerto Rico, or any other U.S. territory during the first shipping season. APHIS is requiring that all clementine shipments from Spain bear labels stating that the above States and territories cannot receive the fruit.

**Q. If clementines from Spain pose no threat to agriculture, why are certain States excluded?**

**A.** Clementines from Spain are being allowed into the United States under certain conditions. As long as those conditions are met, APHIS sees no significant pest risk. The citrus-producing States and territories are excluded during the first shipping season only to ensure the success of APHIS' new requirements.

**Q. Why is APHIS lifting the ban on clementines from Spain?**

**A.** This action is being taken in response to a request from the government of Spain after a thorough examination of the issue by APHIS and the creation of new requirements. APHIS is confident that, under the new requirements, the imported clementines from Spain pose no significant threat to American agriculture.

**Q. Why did APHIS ban clementines from Spain in the first place?**

**A.** Clementines from Spain were banned December 5, 2001, after several live Medflies in their larval stage were intercepted in Spanish clementine imports.

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