

Quarantine 37

Action Requested: Florida Farm Bureau requests that USDA-APHIS strengthen Quarantine 37 as it is the first line of defense against the introduction of foreign pests and diseases.

Background: Because of its location, climate and status as a gateway for international trade, Florida is particularly vulnerable to invasive pests and diseases. Florida needs Quarantine 37 (Q-37) strengthened to protect its agriculture from the introduction of foreign pests and diseases.

Quarantine 37 is a federal rule that prohibits the importation of foreign plants with soil attached into the United States since it is in the soil where pests and diseases often hide or hitchhike. It is not an economic tariff, but is a scientifically based quarantine. USDA-APHIS must ensure that Q-37's biological integrity is maintained; otherwise the US will face the introduction of new foreign pests and diseases on not only nursery plants but also other agricultural commodities.



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