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20th March 2006

Dear Sir,

I would like to submit a submission. re the importation of apples from New Zealand.

(1) While inspection of orchards at blossom time is suggested, and only orchards free from Fireblight, will be only allowed to import apples into Australia, I would like to see an expansion, to include a second inspection for Fireblight just before harvest. If hail has damaged, or insect infestation, or other events that damage foliage of trees. It has been proven that this is a means of Fireblight infection.

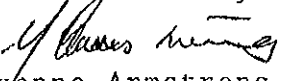
As trash is a high vector for Fireblight infection, no trash should be allowed in the containers, or cartons of fruit, that is being imported into Australia. Our Growers also support the view, that exclusions provisions occur for blocks that Fireblight infection was detected during the previous year. These blocks have a higher risk of infection.

Where insect infection is present, the only way to safeguard the Australian growers is to fumigate the fruit, so problems incurred in America, lead to the fruit being rejected. Such insects as the Apple Leaf Curling Midge, which Australia doesn't have, won't enter Australia.

The Australian Growers also have concerns regarding European Canker. This disease is a most devastating disease, and so very difficult to detect. This disease should automatically exclude fruit being imported into Australia, especially in areas where there is an extremely high risk of European Canker, especially in the high rainfall areas, or when high rainfalls occur.

Although the IRA have not clearly detailed the inspection procedures, when formulated the Australian Growers should have a technical input prior to the final adoption.

Yours sincerely

  
Yvonne Armstrong (Grower)