

## ERS Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Changes in U.S. Horticultural Imports from Mexico: From NAFTA to USMCA

Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) EB

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information  
USDA [ ] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment

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Subject of Review: This economic brief explores changes in U.S. horticultural imports from Mexico between 2007–09 and 2021–23. These imports grew significantly in quantity and value during the period studied, boosting per capita availability in the United States of a wide range of fresh produce. This growing trade was accompanied by important shifts in U.S. horticultural production, including declines for some types of imported fruit and vegetables. In real terms (2023 dollars), U.S. horticultural imports from Mexico grew from an annual average of \$7.3 billion during 2007–09 to \$19.7 billion during 2021–23. Imports increased for all 20 of the leading horticultural imports from Mexico—with avocados, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries, and lettuce experiencing the largest increases in their shares of these imports. An expansion of Mexico’s production made possible the increase in imports, to the extent that for some products (blueberries, chile pepper, lettuce, blackberries, and cauliflower and broccoli, for example), Mexico’s horticultural sector became more oriented on the U.S. market. In the cases of avocados and blueberries, the increase in imports from Mexico began when the U.S. markets for these products were just starting to undergo substantial growth, rather than when those markets were mature and growing slowly.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [ ] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers  
[ ] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 10/28/2024 Completed: 4/8/2025

Number of Reviewers: [X] 3 or fewer [ ] 4 to 10 [ ] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [ ] Designated Outside Organization

[X] No

How:

When:

[X] No

[X] No