

Innovations in Certification— Plant Health Updates from USA

AIPH, March 24, 2021

Craig Regelbrugge, Sr. Vice President, Advocacy
AmericanHort

CraigR@AmericanHort.org



OVERVIEW OF USA SITUATION

Plant Health: A Federal/State Partnership

- US Department of Agriculture-Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (NPPPO)
 - Oversees plant import, export framework
 - Federally regulates some “high consequence” quarantine pests (interstate commerce)
- State Plant Regulatory Officials
 - License and certify growers
 - Intrastate and interstate commerce
 - Often “boots on ground” for cooperative programs



Traditional plant certification

- Annual facility inspection
- End-point visual inspection

• Innovative certification initiatives

- Government/Industry Partnership
- Voluntary
- Based on a standard
- Achieved through integrated measures/systems

Highlights for Today

- Offshore Greenhouse Certification Program (cuttings)
- US/Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program (GCP)
- Systems Approach for Nursery Certification (SANC) – domestic interstate commerce

Offshore Greenhouse Certification (OGCP)

- ~2 billion unrooted cuttings imported each year
 - “Lower risk”
 - Highly perishable
 - Highly seasonal
- “Generally admissible” taxa
- Program piloted 4 suppliers/6 countries

North American Off-Shore Suppliers

Non-Central American Locations

Athena-Brazil
Darwin(Ball)-Colombia
Cohen-Israel
Danziger-Israel
Danziger-Kenya
Dummen-Kenya
Florensis-Kenya
Syngenta-Kenya
Selecta Kenya
Dummen Ethiopia
Florensis-Ethiopia
Syngenta Ethiopia
Selecta Uganda



Ports of Entry

Cargo arrives at port of entry

Clearance performed by import broker

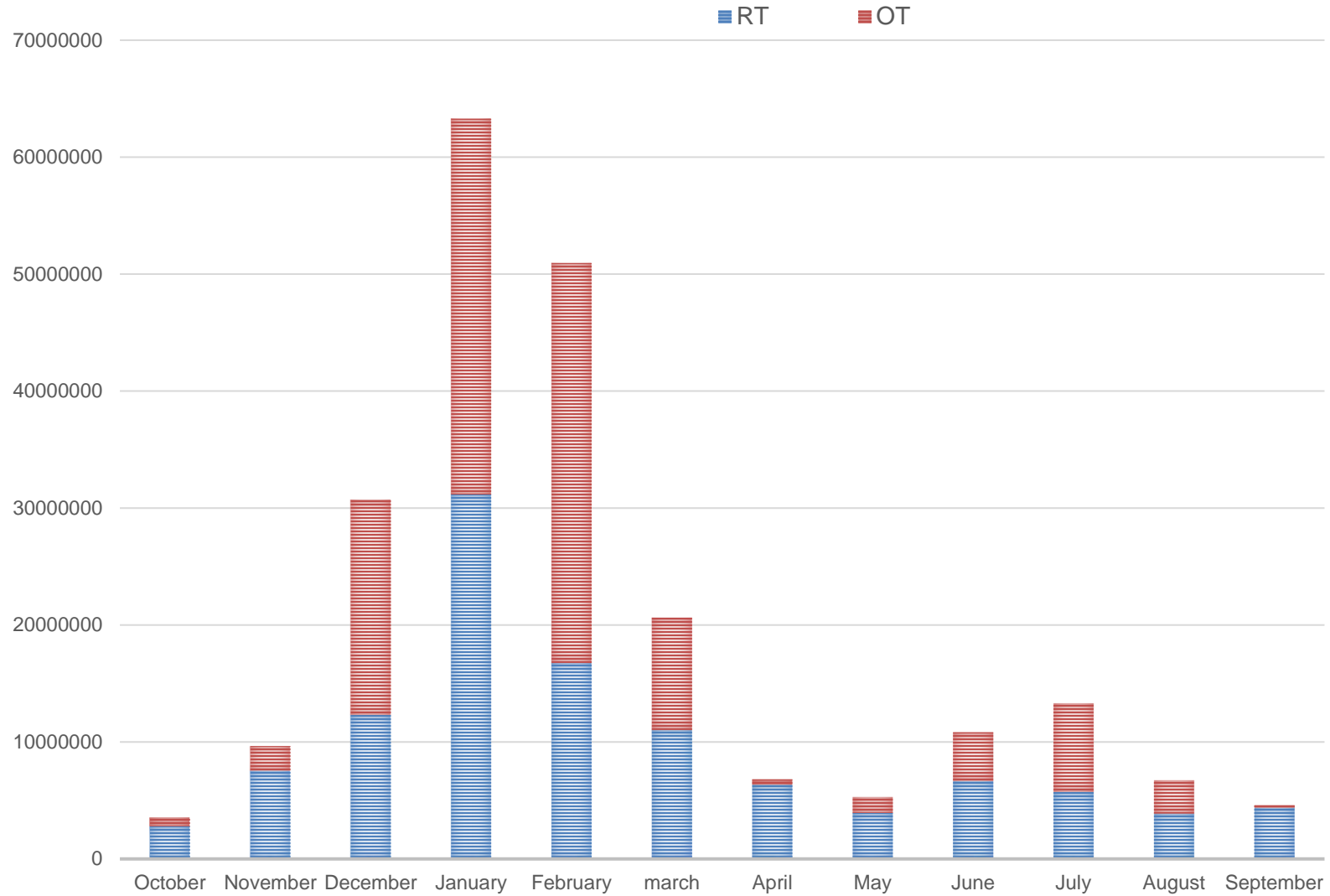
APHIS inspects cuttings

Releases to broker for shipment via FedEx or truck





FY 15 PLANT UNITS INSPECTED BY MONTH



OGCP – Meet or Exceed Minimum Standards



- Greenhouse infrastructure
- Irrigation/water management
- Hygiene/sanitation
- Pest management
- Recordkeeping
- Traceability
- Oversight/Audits (USDA, NPPO)

OGCP Status

- Fully launched in 2020
- Open to suppliers throughout world
- “Automated Commercial Environment” – USDA-APHIS implementation 3/15/21
- Benefits for Producers
 - Quality/Consistency
 - Reduced “frequency of inspection” means most shipments bypass USDA Plant Inspection Stations!
- <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/accreditation-certification/ogcp-framework>

US/Canada Greenhouse Cert Program (GCP)

- Facilitates cross-border trade of “lower-risk” plants
- Key Components:
 - Approved Plant List
 - Pest Management Plan
 - Quarantine Modules
 - Recordkeeping, Oversight Audits
- Key Benefits
 - Time, cost savings
 - Ability to ship without phytosanitary certificate



Systems Approach to Nursery Certification

- Scope – domestic trade
- Key elements
 - Facility-specific risk assessment
 - Hazard/critical control point ID
 - Risk mitigation measures
 - Facility manual
 - Internal, external audits
- Three-way partnership (USDA, States, Industry/AmericanHort)



SANC Status

- Two-phase pilot completed
 - >20 greenhouse, nursery operations throughout US
- Program fully launched 2021
- Website: sanc.nationalplantboard.gov



Lessons Learned, Future Ideas

- Growers report quality, cost savings
- Culture transformation

Looking ahead...

- Will marketplace, especially mass retail, value and reward these efforts? Customers?
- Opportunity with sustainability certification?

