

## Poison dumplings cause veggie import drop

*by UPI*

TOKYO - The importation of vegetables to Japan from China has significantly dropped since Chinese-made dumplings allegedly caused multiple cases of food poisoning. Chinese vegetable exports to Japan during the first three weeks of February dropped 39.7 percent in 2008 compared with last year's records, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said. The number of vegetables purchased from China dropped quickly because Chinese officials are conducting more in-depth export inspections, which take longer to complete, Kyodo reported. Numbers also fell because distributors in Japan have begun shunning produce from China, the report said. In the last week of January, before the food poisoning outbreak hit the media, Japan received 10,668 tons of Chinese vegetables. The number dropped to 6,461 tons during the second week of February and to 4,331 tons in the next week, a ministry report said.

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