

**U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service  
Plant Protection and Quarantine  
4700 River Road, Unit 133  
Riverdale, Maryland 20737**

## **ENTRY STATUS OF SEEDS FOR PLANTING - SUMMARY**

**Revised  
December 2, 2009**

### **General information for all types of seeds**

Pulp: Seeds for planting, except from Canada, must be free from pulp.

Phytosanitary Certification: Shipments of imported seed from all origins other than Canada require a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin, except as noted in the section below for small lots of seed. For Canadian seed, a seed analysis certificate (PPQ form 925 or CFIA form 5289) may be used in lieu of a phytosanitary certificate. One certificate per lot is required.

Small lots of seed: Lots of seed may be imported without a phytosanitary certificate under the following conditions:

- (1) The importation of the seed is authorized by a written permit.
- (2) The seed is not of any prohibited genus; is not of any Federal noxious weed; does not require an additional declaration on a phytosanitary certificate; does not require treatment; is not a parasitic plant; is not genetically modified; and if a field crop or vegetable seed, it meets the requirements of the Federal Seed Act import provisions.
- (3) The seed meets the following packaging and shipping requirements:
  - (i) Each seed packet is clearly labeled with the name of the collector/shipper, the country of origin, and the scientific name at least to the genus, and preferably to the species, level;
  - (ii) There are a maximum of 50 seeds of 1 taxon (taxonomic category such as genus, species, cultivar, etc.) per packet; or a maximum weight not to exceed 10 grams of seed of 1 taxon;
  - (iii) There are a maximum of 50 seed packets per shipment;
  - (iv) The seeds are free from pesticides;
  - (v) The seeds are securely packaged in packets or envelopes and sealed to prevent spillage;
  - (vi) The shipment is free from soil, plant material other than seed, other foreign matter or debris, seeds in the fruit or seed pod, and living organisms such as parasitic plants, pathogens, insects, snails, mites; and
  - (vii) At the time of importation, the shipment is sent to either the Plant Germplasm Quarantine Center in Beltsville, MD, or an approved port of entry listed in the permit.

**Obscured seed:** Seed that is coated or pelleted, or embedded in a manner that obscures visibility (e.g. seed tape, seed mats) is prohibited because it cannot be inspected. Commercial seed shipments otherwise allowed entry to the United States without treatment or other restrictions will be considered for entry under the following protocol. Importers must submit a permit application ([PPQ form 587](#)), a statement from Plant Protection Organization of the country of origin stating the name of the sampling officials, a phone and fax number for the sampling official, and a letter from the sampling official stating that the sampling will be done according to International Seed Testing Association requirements. If approved, authorized samplers will draw an official seed sample from each lot before the seed is processed in the country of origin. The sealed sample will accompany the shipment of obscured seed for inspection by PPQ at the port of entry.

### **Additional information for field crop and vegetable seeds**

Except as indicated in the small lots of seed provision above, and the special requirements section below, seeds in this category are enterable without a written permit. Seeds in this category are subject to the import provisions of the Federal Seed Act. Each lot must be accurately labeled as to kind, variety, origin, and lot designation. If the seed is treated, the declaration of labeling and each container must be further labeled. Inspectors will sample and inspect each lot of field crop and vegetable seed at the port of entry. If inspectors find noxious weeds or other pests, they may refuse admission or allow the seed to be cleaned or processed under supervision. Canadian-grown crop and vegetable seed must be accompanied by a Seed Analysis Certificate (PPQ form 925) in lieu of sampling. See special requirements section below for certain kinds of field crop and vegetable seeds.

### **Additional information for flower and other herbaceous plant seeds (as distinguished from seeds of trees and shrubs)**

Except as indicated in the small lots of seed provision above, and in the special requirements section below, seeds in this category are enterable without a written permit. However, all seeds in this category are subject to inspection and, if findings warrant, to such treatment needed to prevent the risks of pest introduction.

### **Prohibitions and special requirements for herbaceous plant seeds:**

**Bamboo** - all genera of the tribe Bambuseae- prohibited from all sources.

**Broad Bean** (*Vicia faba*) - see Vetch.

**Corn** (*Zea*) and related genera (*Coix*, *Chionachne*, *Echinochloa*, *Eleusine*, *Euchlaena*, *Miscanthus*, *Panicum*, *Pennisetum*, *Polytoca*, *Sclerachne*, *Setaria*, *Sorghum*, *Trilobachne*, *Tripsacum*.) - enterable from approved sources under written permit; prohibited from other sources. Write for details naming seeds, country of origin, and purpose of importation.

**Cotton** (*Gossypium*) - entry limited to certain ports and subject to fumigation. Written permit required.

**Flatpea, roughpea, sweet pea or peavine (*Lathyrus* spp.)** - enterable under written permit. Treatment required.

**Hibiscus (*Hibiscus* spp.)** - enterable under written permit. Treatment required.

**Kenaf (*Hibiscus cannabinus*)** - enterable under written permit. Treatment required.

**Lentils (*Lens* spp.)** - prohibited from South America. Enterable from other sources under written permit. Treatment required.

**Niger (*Guizotia abyssinica*)** – written permit and heat treatment required. Niger seed contains many noxious weeds and quarantine-significant seeds.

**Okra (*Abelmoschus* spp.)** - enterable under written permit. Treatment required.

**Parasitic plants** - prohibited except under plant pest permit.

**Peanut (*Arachis* spp.)** - prohibited from Burkino Faso, China, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Japan, the Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, and Taiwan because of *peanut stripe virus*.

**Potato true seeds (*Solanum tuberosum*)** - prohibited from all sources except Canada, New Zealand, and certain parts of Chile.

**Rice (*Oryza* spp.)** - prohibited from all sources except from Mexico, which requires a written permit.

**Soybeans (*Glycine max*)** – must be free of leaves, stems, pods, and soil peds.

**Vetch (*Vicia* spp.)** - enterable under written permit and treatment required.

**Weeds** - Federal noxious weeds are prohibited except under plant pest permit. Refer to Federal noxious weed list at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/weeds/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/weeds/index.shtml).

**Wheat - (*Triticum*, and relatives; e.g. *Tritordeum*, *Tritosecale*, *Aegilops*)**- prohibited entry from many sources. Write for details giving country of origin and purpose of importation.

**Wild rice (*Zizania* spp.)** - prohibited from all sources except Canada.

#### **Additional information for woody plant seeds (trees, shrubs, palms and other plants of a woody nature)**

Seeds in this category are generally enterable with a written permit, except for the following:

**Avocado (*Persea* spp.)** - prohibited from Mexico, Central America and South America.

**Barberry (*Berberis* spp.), *Mahonia*, and *Mahoberberis*** - prohibited from all sources.

**Chestnut (*Castanea* spp.)** - enterable under written permit with treatment required.

**Citrus** family (Rutaceae), seeds of the following genera are prohibited from countries infested with HLB and CVC (seed-borne diseases of citrus): *Aeglopsis*, *Atalantia*, *Balsamocitrus*, *Bergera*, *Calodendrum*, *Citrofortunella*, *×Citroncirus*, *Citrus*, *Clausena*, *Fortunella*, *Limonia*, *Microcitrus*, *Murraya*, *Poncirus*, *Severinia*, *Swinglea*, *Toddalia*, and *Triphasia*. Countries infested with HLB and CVC are Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Costa Rica, Comoros, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Laos, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Réunion, Rwanda, Saint Helena, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Somalia, South Africa, Swaziland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Yemen, Zimbabwe. Seeds of these genera from other countries

can only be imported into the United States if, upon arrival at the first port of entry, they are accompanied by an import permit and a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin, with an additional declaration stating that the country where the seed for planting was produced is free of HLB and CVC.

Seed of citrus genera that are not prohibited require a written permit and, if from countries infested with citrus canker (listed in 7CFR319.37-6), a port-of-entry treatment.

**Coconut (*Cocos* spp.)** - prohibited from all sources except Jamaica and Costa Rica.

Written permit required from Jamaica and Costa Rica.

**Coffee, unroasted (*Coffea* spp.)** - prohibited from all sources into Hawaii and Puerto Rico; enterable to other destinations.

**Elm (*Ulmus* spp.)** - prohibited from Europe; enterable under written permit from other sources.

**Mango (*Mangifera* spp.)** - Prohibited from all sources except Guimaras Islands (Republic of the Philippines) and North and South America (excluding Barbados, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St. Lucia St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago). Prohibition not applicable to seeds imported into Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

**Oak (*Quercus* spp.)** - enterable under written permit. Treatment required.

***Prunus* spp.** - because of plum pox disease, *Prunus* spp. other than *Prunus avium*, *P. cerasus*, *P. canescans*, *P. mahaleb*, *P. padus*, *P. serotina*, *P. serrula*, *P. serrulata*, *P. subhirtella*, *P. laurocerasus*, *P. virginiana*, *P. effusa*, *P. sargentii*, and *P. yedoensis* from Europe must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate declaring the seeds were produced in a nursery free of plum pox virus in Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands, or Great Britain, and the seeds are free from plum pox virus based on testing of parent stock. Seeds of *Prunus* spp. susceptible to plum pox disease from all countries outside of Europe, Cyprus, Japan, Syria, and Turkey, **must** be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate declaring the seeds were grown in the country specified on the certificate and plum pox virus **does not** occur in that country.

**Rutaceae** – see previous entry for citrus.

**Weeds** - Federal noxious weeds are prohibited except under plant pest permit. A few are woody plants. Refer to the Federal noxious weed list at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant\\_health/plant\\_pest\\_info/weeds/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/weeds/index.shtml).

### Endangered Species

Some seeds are regulated by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). If the seeds you want to import are not common species, contact the Permit Unit for a list of ESA- and CITES- regulated seeds.

### Genetically Engineered Seeds

For the importation, interstate movement and environmental release of genetically engineered seeds, apply using [APHIS Form 2000](#), Application for Permit.

**Permit Information**

For a written permit, submit a [PPQ form 587](#) permit application.

For a plant pest permit, submit a [PPQ form 526](#).

**Relevant Regulations**

7 CFR 319 [Foreign Plant Quarantines](#)

7 CFR 330 [Plant Pest Regulations](#)

7 CFR 340 [Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering \(plant pests\)](#)

7 CFR 360 [Noxious Weed Regulations](#)

7 CFR 361 [Importation of Seed and Screenings Under the Federal Seed Act](#)