Importation of Plants for Planting into the United States: From A to Z

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What You’ll Hear About Today (cont’d)

APHIS Mission and Key Programs

Spotlight on:
- Plant Protection & Quarantine
- Regulatory Authority

Plants for Planting:
- Import Process, A to Z
- Plant Inspection Stations

Wood Packing Material
The Plant Protection Act – June 2000

Provides that the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture may issue regulations to prevent the introduction of plant pests into the United States or the dissemination of plant pests within the United States.

Authorizes APHIS to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce and the export or import of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States.
How do plants enter the U.S. today?

**Generally admissible plants**
- Import Permit
- Phytosanitary Certificate
- Inspection at Plant Inspection Station

**Example:** Petunia

**Restricted plants**

**Workplan With Exporting Government**
- Special restrictions listed in Plants for Planting Manual
- Phytosanitary Certificate
  - Additional Declaration
- Import Permit
- Inspection at PPQ Plant inspection stations

**Example:** Pelargonium (geranium)

**Post-entry Quarantine**
- PEQ Permit
- Phytosanitary Certificate
- PIS inspection
- Quarantine (6 months to 2 yrs.)
- Visual inspection during quarantine

**Example:** Acer, Rosa, Malus

**Controlled Import Permits**
- Used for taxa not authorize entry, for lab research or breed testing
- PIS inspection
- Require containment and/or destruction at the end of analysis
- State may review
- Located at major ports of entry

- New PIS construction/builds:
  - Feature modernized labs and inspection and plant holding areas
  - Co-locate with other federal programs
  - Include a DNA lab
Market Access
(Getting Approval to Import Plants that are not authorized)

Basic steps: (nine step process)

1. Access to U.S. markets is received from the foreign government

2. Commodity risk assessment is performed which identifies plant pest and disease risks
   - May take a few months to several years depending on complexity of pest lists
   - Risk Assessment is published in Federal Register with a 60-day comment period
Market Access
(Getting Approval to Import Plants that are not authorized)

Basic steps (cont’d):

3. Risk Manager determines the import restrictions based on risk assessment and comments received

4. Fish and Wildlife is consulted (to determine impact to endangered flora or fauna, or for other concerns)

5. Country Consultation to address pests of concern
   • possible site visits to observe production areas and cultural practices
6. PPQ drafts a regulatory work plan and sends to:
   • Customs & Border Protection
   • The APHIS Administrator
   • Office of Management & Budget (OMB)

OMB Reviews the work plan and determines the economic impact

7. Risk Assessment, Environmental Impact, and regulatory work plan are published in the federal register
   • 30 day comment period
   • 2nd noticed published after comments are considered (FINAL RULE)
8. Operational Work Plan is finalized between PPQ and foreign government which governs all aspects of the growing and shipping programs.

9. PPQ updates web sites and Plant for Planting Manual on the effective date of authorized importations.

... IMPORT HAPPENS!
Partners at Ports of Entry
Resources

Plant Import Information

NAPPRA

Clean Plant Centers

Commodity import approval process

PPQ Stakeholder Registry
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAPHIS/subscriber/new
Thank you!

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