



# **APHIS MISSION: To safeguard the health, welfare and value of American agriculture and natural resources**

**Tapos Mondal**  
**NJ State Plant Health Director**

**Tiffany Mauro**  
**Port Director**  
**Plant Inspection Station**  
**1500 Lower Road**  
**Linden, New Jersey 07036**

**Andrew Gritzmaker**  
**Supervisory PPQ Officer**

**Cristi Palmer**  
**Supervisory PPQ Officer**



# APHIS regulates the import of agricultural commodities into the United States

APHIS regulates the import of agricultural commodities into the United States to protect the health and value of America's agriculture. These commodities include *live plants, plant cuttings, seeds, cut flowers and greenery, fruits and vegetables, pest organisms, soil, wood products, and related items.*

# Plant and Plant Product Imports

***I Want To.....Import plant and plant product into the United States***

***Use our guidelines below to make sure you're importing safely and legally and help the process go smoothly***

Import a plant or plant product into the United States



Notify the United States of an incoming approved shipment of plants or plant products



Buy plants or seeds online



Ship plants, food, and other agricultural products via express courier



Participate in the Offshore Greenhouse Certification Program

Ship a plant or plant product through the United States on its way to another country

As a traveler, bring plants or plant products into the mainland United States from Hawaii, Puerto Rico, or another country

Sell plants or seeds online

Understand requirements followed at airport and airline caterers or retailers

Import plants from Canada under U.S.-Canada Greenhouse Grown Plant Certification Program

# How To Import Plants and Plant Products into the United States

## Import Permits

**START HERE if you already know the specific permit you need.**

[Log in to eFile](#)

APHIS eFile is the online system to apply for and receive import and transit permits for plants, plant pests, soil, and agricultural products.

First time user? [Create an account.](#)

**Import Requirements vary depending  
on the specific commodity and country of origin...**

## Agricultural Commodity Import Requirements (ACIR)

**START HERE if you are new to the process or do not know the type of import permit you need.**

[Go to ACIR](#)

The ACIR database contains import requirements (including Federal import orders) for the following agricultural commodities:

- Cut flowers and greenery
- Fresh fruit and vegetables
- Pest organisms
- Processed fruit and vegetables
- Plants and seeds for planting and propagation
- Seeds not for planting
- Soil, soil amendments, and rocks
- Wood products and byproducts

Can't find your agricultural commodity in ACIR? Please [contact us](#).

# Import a Plant or Plant Product into the U.S

- ✓ How To Request Access to U.S. Markets
- ✓ Importing Plants or Plant Products for Experimental, Therapeutic, or Developmental Purposes
- ✓ Wood Packing Material ISPM 15 Compliance
- ✓ File a Lacey Act Declaration
- ✓ Types of Phytosanitary Treatments
- ✓ Import Federal Orders for Emergencies
- ✓ Working with Plant Inspection Stations

## Things To Know When Importing Plants and Plant Products

### Commodity Import Approval Process

If the plant or plant product you want to import is not already an approved commodity or undergoing a pest risk analysis, you must initiate a commodity import request.



### Controlled Import Permits

Some plants and plant products are restricted, which means you need to follow additional requirements to import them into the United States.



### Packaging Materials Risks and Best Practices

Learn more about wood packaging materials, the risks they can pose to the United States, and how APHIS regulates them.



### Lacey Act Declaration

The Lacey Act combats the illegal trafficking of wildlife, fish, and plants. Find out if your commodity needs a declaration.



### Phytosanitary Treatments for Imported Commodities

Some imported commodities may need a phytosanitary treatment before they enter the United States to make sure they are free of pests and diseases.



### Import Federal Orders

A Federal Order is a legal document issued in response to an emergency when the APHIS Administrator considers it necessary to take action to protect agriculture or prevent the entry and establishment into the United States of a pest or disease.





***I Want To.....***

***Use our guidelines below to make sure  
you're importing safely and legally and  
help the process go smoothly***

**Import a plant or plant product into the  
United States**



**Ship a plant or plant product  
the United States on its way  
country**

**Notify the United States of an  
incoming approved shipment of plants  
or plant products**



**As a traveler, bring plants or  
products into the mainland U  
States from Hawaii, Puerto R  
another country**

**Buy plants or seeds online**



**Sell plants or seeds online**

**Ship plants, food, and other  
agricultural products via express  
courier**



**Understand requirements for  
airport and airline caterers**

# Filing APHIS Core Message Set Data in ACE

*Last Modified: March 18, 2025*

The U.S. government uses the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) to process imports and exports. ACE streamlines import and export processes by allowing businesses to provide required data electronically. This page includes all the resources you'll need to get started.

If you choose not to use ACE, you may provide APHIS-required import information in paper form. However, this may result in slower customs review and additional costs.

***Notify the U.S of an Importing  
Approved Shipment of Plants and  
Plant Products***

## Get Started Using the APHIS Core Message Set in ACE

1. Make sure you're familiar with APHIS import requirements by selecting "Trade" from the main navigation menu on the website, and whether your product needs a permit. This includes knowing whether you need to file a [Lacey Act declaration](#). There is a separate [message set](#) for filing Lacey Act declarations.
2. Choose a software that supports the APHIS Core Message Set and make sure you have technical support as well. Requirements may change over time, and you may need updates or technical support from your software vendor. See [list of approved software vendors](#).
3. Familiarize yourself with the guidance and resources on this page.



# Working With Plant Inspection Stations for Propagative Plant Shipments

## Things To Know When Importing Plants and Plant Products

### Commodity Import Approval Process

If the plant or plant product you want to import is not already an approved commodity or undergoing a pest risk analysis, you must initiate a commodity import request.



### Controlled Import Permits

Some plants and plant products are restricted, which means you need to follow additional requirements to import them into the United States.



### Packaging Materials Risks and Best Practices

Learn more about wood packaging materials, the risks they can pose to the United States, and how APHIS regulates them.



### Lacey Act Declaration

The Lacey Act combats the illegal trafficking of wildlife, fish, and plants. Find out if your commodity needs a declaration.



### Phytosanitary Treatments for Imported Commodities

Some imported commodities may need a phytosanitary treatment before they enter the United States to make sure they are free of pests and diseases.



### Import Federal Orders

A Federal Order is a legal document issued in response to an emergency when the APHIS Administrator considers it necessary to take action to protect agriculture or prevent the entry and establishment into the United States of a pest or disease.



### Plant Inspection Stations

Experts at APHIS plant inspection stations make sure imported plants and propagative material are free of USDA-regulated pests and diseases and meet U.S. plant health import standards.







# CBP and PPQ Cooperation

- **Non propagative commonly imported, inspected by CBP, and treatment overseen by PPQ**
  - Cucurbits require COE treatment for khapra beetle
  - Cumin-FNW *Asphodelus fistulosus* and khapra beetle
- **Propagative plant material commonly imported, inspected by PPQ**
  - Limonium sp
  - Abelmoschus esculentus (SEEDS)
  - Daucus carota (SEEDS)
  - Momordica charantia (SEEDS)
  - Solanum melongena (SEEDS)
  - Cordyline sp ( ROOTED PLANT)
  - Hibiscus moscheutos (SEEDS)
  - Hibiscus sabdariffa (SEEDS)
  - Amaryllis sp (BULB)
  - Cleome hassleriana (SEEDS)

# Working With Plant Inspection Stations

Plant Protection and Quarantine ensures imported plants and propagative material are free of USDA-regulated pests and diseases and meet U.S. plant health import standards before the shipment is released to the importer.

When shipments containing live plants or propagative material arrive in the United States, U.S. Customs and Border Protection transfers those shipments to an APHIS plant inspection station for inspection.



## Bonsai plants-containerized



- Herbaceous cuttings
- Tissue culture
- Plants in growing media
- Bulbs
- Seeds

*Molecular Diagnostics*  
*Pelargonium* from approved  
growers for *Ralstonia*  
*solanacearum* race 3, biovar 2



Orchids established in media



# USDA Holds

APHIS PPQ and CBP work in partnership to minimize pest risks and prevent the spread of plant pests and animal diseases.

- CBP inspectors...
  - Verify a shipment has the appropriate entry documentation
  - If there is a risk of a plant pest or disease, place that shipment on a USDA hold until they can inspect it more thoroughly or forward on to PIS for inspection.

# Quarantine & Pest Contamination

## Pathway

- Maritime
- Air cargo
- Mail
- Express Courier
- Passenger
- Domestic detection

## Pest Identification in the Disciplines

- Botany
- Entomology
- Pathology
  - Molecular Ralstonia RPA



# of Quarantine Interceptions (All Areas)1718

# of Non-quarantine Interceptions (All Areas)1177

# Phytosanitary Treatments

**Types of Treatment-** Phytosanitary treatments can be chemical or nonchemical.

Approved chemical treatments:

- fumigants
- dips
- sprays

Nonchemical treatments:

- cold treatment
- hot water immersion
- vapor heat treatment
- steam sterilization
- irradiation



Thank you