



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Home Affairs

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Importing Seeds into Bermuda - Conditions for Entry
Plant Protection Lab (PPL)

The importation of seeds (excluding seed for human or animal consumption) into Bermuda is regulated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under the Agriculture Act 1930 and the Invasive Alien Species Act 2021 to exclude pests, diseases, invasive species and other environmental contaminants from entering Bermuda. Please refer to the “Procedures for the Importation of Propagation Material into Bermuda” for the importation requirements for plant material (including bulbs, rhizomes, tubers and live plants).

The following seeds are **prohibited entry** into Bermuda:

- Palmae/ Arecaecae
- Any species which is known to be invasive or considered to be an invasive risk
- Seeds infested with pests or infected with disease or posing risk thereof
- Seeds contaminated with soil
- Genetically modified seed

The following seeds are **restricted entry** into Bermuda (contact DENR for further details):

- Pesticide treated seed (registered farmers only)
- Persea spp.
- Mangifera spp.
- Citrus spp.
- Musaceae family (including Musa spp. and Ensete spp.)
- Seeds with virus transmission risk (including but not limited to tomato and pepper seeds)

NOTE:

- Imported seeds must be supplied by a verifiable, traceable, reputable commercial grower/seed producer. Seeds from re-selling/packaging distributors or exchanges are not accepted unless accompanied by an Import Permit issued from the PPL and a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the country of origin.
- Imported seeds must be free from all fruit flesh/pulp, pests, diseases, soil, sand, contaminant seeds, and other plant material (leaf, stem material, pod material etc.), animal material or other potential carriers of quarantine pests. Seeds arriving with any contaminants or prohibited items will be confiscated and destroyed at the importer’s expense.
- Seeds which require moisture to retain viability must be packaged in sterile/previously unused media approved in advance by DENR (PPL). Approved media types are paper, perlite, vermiculite and coconut coir.
- Seeds which are sprouted and have roots will NOT be accepted. Soil and moss are prohibited entry and must not be used.
- Imported seed packages must contain the following labeling information in English: Name of seed (including scientific name if possible), quantity (if applicable), verifiable name of supplier and contact information, lot information/packed for date (vegetable seeds) and variety (if applicable). Shipments without this information will be denied entry.
- Imported seed shipments must arrive sealed in the original commercially packaged envelopes or containers suitable for international trade with the requisite labelling information. Plastic ‘zip lock’ bags are not permitted.
- Homegrown or wild collected domestic shipments of seed do not qualify as commercially grown nor commercially packaged and do not meet Bermuda’s entry requirements.

PROCEDURE TO IMPORT SEEDS

1. Complete and submit an application to import seeds.

- Contact the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' Plant Protection Lab (PPL) (plants@gov.bm) to request an "Application to Import Seeds" [Form is also available at www.gov.bm]
- Please provide the scientific name (genus and species) of the requested seeds on the application form as many plants share similar common names. The scientific name allows proper identification of the plant and accurate assessment of invasiveness and pathway risk. If the scientific name is not readily available, please link the website to the e-mail in order for the proper research to be completed. This will delay the process and insufficient information will result in denial of the application.
- Seeds must be ordered from a reputable commercial seed producer in order to ensure accurate nomenclature (names) and freedom of potential pests or diseases. Supplier contact information must be provided for verification of the shipment.
- Seeds treated with pesticides will not be permitted entry unless the importer is a registered farmer and has permission from the PPL to import the treated seed.

2. Await approval from DENR (PPL)

- The application will be processed. Invasive or prohibited plant seeds will not be permitted entry. Insufficient or incorrect information will prevent the application from being approved. Please note that the evaluation process can take up to 3 weeks.
- The importer will be advised if further information is required on restricted seeds.
- Approval or denial will be provided via e-mail or letter from a representative of the Plant Protection Lab.
- In special cases of requests to import restricted seeds (noted above), an Import Permit will be issued. The importer must adhere to all the requirements found on the Import Permit. Failure to do so will result in the confiscation and destruction of the seeds.
- If the invasive or disease status changes for seeds previously approved for importation, the approval to import will be revoked and the importer advised.

3. Place the order or approve the website checkout cart for seeds

- Once the seeds have been approved entry, the importer may order the seeds. The importer must ensure that the supplier only sends seeds which have been approved by the Plant Protection Lab and does not send substitutions or free samples.
- All seeds must be clearly and verifiably labeled from the commercial grower/producer. See 'Note:' on page 1 of this document.

4. Ship seed order

- Seeds can be mailed, couriered, or carried into Bermuda however they must be declared to HM Customs as seeds. Please ensure the original, clear, complete and legible invoice from the supplier accompanies the shipment.
- Registered farmers must email a copy of their invoice to PPL for review to plants@gov.bm and pesticides@gov.bm.



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5. All imported seed shipments are withheld by HM Customs upon arrival for inspection by the DENR (PPL). (Imported seed shipments for commercial farmers are not withheld for inspection provided the invoice has been sent to the PPL for review and all other matters are in order).

- HM Customs will withhold the imported seed shipment for inspection by the PPL to ensure that the seeds ordered were approved for entry and are free from pests, diseases or contaminants.
- Please be aware that seed packages may be opened for inspection purposes.
- Seeds must not have roots and must be free from all other plant material and contaminants. See 'Note:' on page 1 of this document.
- Seeds that are not clearly and verifiably labeled and packaged from the commercial producer or do not meet the entry requirements will be confiscated and destroyed at the importer's expense. See 'Note:' on page 1 of this document.
- After the seeds have been inspected and approved for entry, the shipment will be released to the importer or back to the shipping agent (FedEx, DHL etc.).
- Seed shipments arriving by container or air freight (courier agent) must have the Bermuda Customs Declaration (BCD) form to be stamped and signed by the DENR (PPL) prior to submission to Customs. Where necessary, the PPL will request the imported seed shipment for inspection upon arrival to ensure compliance.

Imported seeds which have been treated with pesticides, misrepresented, are not verifiably labelled or are not in compliance with these policies will be confiscated and destroyed at the importer's expense.

Note: Seed potato or tubers for planting are plant material and are not seeds. Please refer to the 'Importation of Plant Material' document for more information

Any questions regarding this or any other plant related imports matters may be directed to the Plant Protection Lab at 441-239-2322 or plants@gov.bm.

Updated: July 2023

Application to Import Seed (for Sowing)

All seeds imported into Bermuda must be approved by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources prior to importation. The shipment must be accompanied by a full invoice and must not contain any pest species within. Imports arriving without these papers will not be accepted. An Original Phytosanitary Certificate may be required.

Please note:

- All seed must be clearly labelled;
- All seeds must be commercially packaged;
- Seeds may be inspected upon arrival;
- Seeds must be free of insects, soil, fungi and pulp.
- Mangifera and Persea spp. are restricted entry and an import permit and other supporting documentation must be obtained prior to entry.

The following are prohibited entry:

- Citrus spp.;
- Palmae (all members);
- Seeds of plants considered invasive or have invasive potential in Bermuda;
- Rooted seeds;
- Seeds without scientific name identification;
- Soil.

Quantity	Botanical Name of Material (Must include Genera <u>and</u> species)	Common Name

(Use reverse side if more space is needed)

Country and locality in which seed is produced: _____

Supplier (name and address): _____

Importation by: Hand Baggage Air Freight Ocean Freight Mail

End Use: Personal Consumption Forage Commercial Production (Food)
 Retail Sale Home Garden Ground cover

Is the seed treated? : Yes No If 'Yes' specify treatment: _____

Name of Applicant (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____ Fax: _____

Signature of Applicant or Agent: _____

For Departmental Use Only (if applicable):

Permit No.: _____

Date: _____