Foreign Import of Propagative Materials (Plants for Planting) to Guam

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Many plants from foreign countries may enter Guam provided they meet the entry requirements, which may vary by plant and country of origin. Nearly all plants for planting MUST meet USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and Guam Department of Agriculture rules and general restrictions to be considered for import into Guam. Some plants for planting have specific restrictions and must meet BOTH general restrictions and specific restrictions for importation. Otherwise, the plants will be refused entry and will be sent back to its country of origin. These restrictions are imposed to prevent the introduction of pests and diseases into the United States, including Guam.

This factsheet shows the general steps on how to import propagative plant materials to Guam including links to the US Department of Agriculture’s website. Propagative plant materials include live plants, bulbs, corms, cuttings, root crowns, and seeds. It is highly recommended that an Import permit and other documents be obtained at least 30 days before the shipment’s arrival to Guam. Besides Import Permit, Phytosanitary Certificate, and Invoice, there might be additional permits or documents required based on the plant to be imported. Look at the general restrictions. If these restrictions are not met at any point in the inspection process, the plant material may be delayed entry or not authorized entry to Guam by inspectors (Agriculture Biosecurity Officers or Guam Customs Officers). If a Controlled Import Permit (CIP) has been previously acquired for plants for planting, then the general restrictions DO NOT apply. All plants should be free from pests and diseases.

Verification of List
Verify if the commodity is admissible by looking at the List of Plants for Planting Manual, Chapter 6, page 277 (https://tinyurl.com/kg8n5v8).

Growing media
Plants for planting must be free from sand, soil, other growing media, pests, and diseases.

Size and Age
Plants for planting must meet size and age requirements. Size and age restrictions are based on whether the whole plant or part of a plant is admissible for import, see page 31 (https://tinyurl.com/kg8n5v8).

Obtain an APHIS Import Permit
It is recommended for customers to use the ePermit system, rather than filing the forms manually and submitting it by mail, for faster processing. First, create an eAuthentication account and register for a Level 2 access. It takes about 30 minutes to finish the process. Once registered, you can now use the ePermit system by logging into the eAuthentication database (https://tinyurl.com/jd9zwnt). Apply for PPQ Form 587 at least 30 days prior to arrival on Guam, unless meeting the exemption conditions, see page 37-38 (https://tinyurl.com/kg8n5v8). Note: Other permits may be required, see page 69 for Special Permits (https://tinyurl.com/kg8n5v8).

List all commodities to be imported:
1. ______________________________
2. ______________________________
3. ______________________________
4. ______________________________
5. ______________________________
6. ______________________________
7. ______________________________
8. ______________________________
9. ______________________________
10. ______________________________
Get an Invoice
Identify and mark each plant material. Plant imports must be accompanied by an invoice indicating the scientific name and the quantity by weight (gram/kilogram) of the consignment/shipment.

Packing List
Shows all contents of each package and references a box number that is both on the packing list and the physical box. Without the packing list, inspection will be delayed.

Packing Tips
Any restricted article at the time of importation or offer for importation to Guam shall not be packed in a packing material unless the plants were packed in the packing material immediately prior to shipment; such packing material must be free from sand, soil, or earth and has not been used previously as packing material. For the list of packing materials, visit https://www.govregs.com/regulations/7/319.37-9.

For further inquiries about admissibility and entry requirements of certain plants, call/email:

Permit Services
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737
Phone: (301) 851-2046 or toll-free at (877) 770-5990
Email: permits@aphis.usda.gov.
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM EST (except holidays)

Or visit:
USDA, Plant Inspection Station
17-3306 Neptune Avenue, Barrigada, GU 96913
Phone: (671) 475-0854/475-1427
Fax: (671) 475-0853
Hours: Monday-Friday (except holidays)
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Phytosanitary Certificate and CITES Certificate (if applicable)
Shipment must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the country from which it was grown. It must be an original or certified true copy issued no more than 15 days prior to shipment. If importing orchids, cacti, and other protected plants, obtain a CITES Certificate from the country of origin.

Note: See list of exemptions on page 40 (https://tinyurl.com/kg8n5v8).

Request for a Local Import Permit at:
Guam Department of Agriculture
Biosecurity Division, 17-3306 Neptune Ave., Barrigada, GU 96913
Hours: Monday-Friday (except holidays)
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM
Options:
• walk in
• call in at (671) 475-1427
• fax at (671) 477-9487. Faxes must be followed by phone call for verification of receipt.

Fill out the application form completely. The processing time for permit request is approximately four (4) hours.

Pay the exact amount of $10 by cash, personal check (on-island checks only), or company check.

Pick up the document the next day. Pick-up hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 11:30 AM. Present any valid picture ID (Driver's license, Passport, Guam ID, or Company ID). If other than importer/consignee, an authorization with picture ID is required. Company/business employee authorizations must be on letterheads.

NOTE: Local import permit is good for one (1) shipment only and valid for up to 30 calendar days after issuance.
If the commodity is listed as Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis (NAPPRA), there are two options on how to import it.

**Research**
The commodity can be imported for experimental research, breeding, or development of new varieties and therapeutic treatment to provide pest-free stock. Obtain PPQ 558 (Controlled Import Permit) but this permit only allows limited quantity under specified conditions that includes testing, containment, or other specified conditions both before and after import.

**Commercial Distribution**
Generally, the commodity cannot be imported for commercial distribution. However, if you still want to import, request and complete a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for that plant from the National Plant Protection Organization (https://tinyurl.com/kypgbfn).

**What is the intended means of importing the Propagative Material?**
Note: Propagative Materials are not allowed to be handcarried on a plane trip.

**U.S. Postal Service (USPS) or courier (DHL, FedEx, UPS, etc.)**
1. All packages get sent to USDA-APHIS Plant Inspection Station where plants are inspected first - not at home, or a business address. Mail to: Guam Department of Agriculture, Biosecurity Division, 17-3306 Neptune Ave., Barrigada, GU 96913.
2. On a separate paper within the package, write name, address, and phone number of the intended recipient.
3. On the outer package, place a sheet of paper with the following information: general nature and quantity of the contents; country and locality where grown, name and address of shipper, owner, or person shipping or forwarding the plants for planting, and number of the written permit authorizing the importation if one was required.

**Note:** By law, a customer is liable when a seed package is directly delivered (usually via USPS Priority Mail) to the mailing address bypassing USDA-APHIS inspection. When this happens, bring the received package to the Plant Inspection Facility for inspection.

**Sea/Air Cargo**
1. Packages must be routed, unopened, to the Plant Inspection Station, 17-3306 Neptune Ave., Barrigada, GU 96913.
2. Write the following information on a sheet of paper and attach to the package or attach to the plant (if not placed in a box): general nature and quantity of the contents; country and locality where grown, name and address of shipper, owner, or person shipping or forwarding the plants for planting, name and address of consignee, shipper’s mark and number, and number of written permit authorizing the importation, if one was required.
3. A packing list must accompany each package of material. For shipments with more than one (1) package, a copy of the invoice must be enclosed within Package No. 1, which means that all packages must have consecutive numbers.

Based on the payment receipt, take note of the expected delivery date. Notify the Plant Inspection Station of the shipment’s arrival preferably 24 hrs. in advance. Notice should be given at least by Friday afternoon if the package(s) will come in on a Sunday or a Monday holiday. The importer must provide personnel for offloading purposes. See page 46 for more details (https://tinyurl.com/kg8n5v8).