



GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Home Affairs

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Importing Seeds into Bermuda - Conditions of Entry

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 “Procedures for the Importation of Propagation Material into Bermuda” document for the importation requirements for plant material (including bulbs/rhizomes/tubers/live plants).

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

- Palmae/ Arecaeaceae (Palms) / Musaceae (Banana) family (including *Musa* spp. and *Ensete* spp.)
- 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
- Rooted seeds (requires a Plant Import Permit)
- Improperly or inadequately labelled packages of seeds (risk assessment cannot be performed)

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

- Pesticide treated seeds (farmers registered with the department may import)
- *Persea* spp. (avocado), *Mangifera* spp. (mango), *Citrus* spp. (orange, lemon, grapefruit etc.)
- Seeds with pest, disease or virus transmission risk

NOTE:

- Imported seeds must be supplied by a **verifiable, traceable, reputable commercial grower/seed producer or distributor**. Seeds from re-selling/re-packaging distributors, seed exchanges or wild collected seeds are not accepted unless accompanied by an Import Permit issued in advance from the Plant Protection Section (PPS) and a Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the country of origin.
- Each individual imported seed package **MUST** contain the following labelling information in English to allow for proper pest, disease and invasive assessment: Name of all seed types (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). Seed packages arriving 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. Unlabeled ‘zip lock’ type bags and envelopes 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. Unlabeled, inadequately labeled, incomplete, unclear or incorrectly labeled plastic bags, foil packages, paper envelopes etc. will not be accepted nor considered and will be confiscated.
- Imported seed shipments must be free from all flesh/pulp, pests, diseases, soil, sand, contaminant seeds, plant material (leaf, stem, pod material etc.), animal material or other potential carriers of quarantine pests. Seeds arriving with contaminants or prohibited items will be confiscated and destroyed.
- Seeds which require moisture to retain viability must be packaged in sterile/previously unused media approved in advance by DENR (PPL) Email plants@gov.bm. Approved media types include paper, unused perlite, vermiculite and coconut coir. Soil and moss are prohibited entry and must not be used.
- Seeds which are sprouted and have roots will **NOT** be accepted.
- Contact plants@gov.bm in advance for entry requirements pertaining to seeds embedded in novelty cards/products and growing kits/systems containing seeds.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources

PROCEDURE TO IMPORT SEEDS

1. Complete and submit an application to import seeds to plants@gov.bm

- Obtain an “Application to Import Seeds” form from www.gov.bm or plants@gov.bm.
- 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 supplier’s website to the e-mail in order for the proper research to be completed. Insufficient or incorrect information will result in denial of the application. If the species is new to Bermuda, the DENR must be satisfied that it does not pose a threat to the environment, human health or the economy and the importer is required to apply to the DENR for permission to import under the Invasive Alien Species Act 2021.
- Seeds must be ordered from a **verifiable, traceable, reputable commercial grower/seed producer or distributor** 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. Avoid 3rd party distributors i.e. Amazon, Etsy etc. because they often sell unverifiable seed.
- Seeds treated with pesticides will not be permitted entry unless the importer is a registered farmer and has permission from the Plant Protection Section (PPS) in advance to import the treated seed. [Registered farmers must email a copy of their invoice to PPS prior to arrival of the shipment for review to plants@gov.bm and pesticides@gov.bm.]

2. Await a response from the DENR (PPS)

- 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 for pest and disease status. Invasive assessment may take longer.
- The importer will be advised if further information is required.
- Approval or denial will be provided via e-mail from a representative of the PPS.
- In special cases of requests to import restricted or non-commercially packaged seeds, an Import Permit may 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 PPS and does not send substitutions or free samples.
- All seed packets must be clearly and verifiably labeled from the commercial grower/supplier. See ‘NOTE:’ on page 1 of this document.
- If a Phytosanitary Certificate is required, the importer must make the necessary arrangements to have the seeds inspected prior to export and to obtain this documentation.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources

4. Ship the seed order

- Seeds may be mailed, shipped, couriered, or carried into Bermuda however they must be declared to HM Customs as seeds. A copy of the complete, correct and legible invoice from the supplier must accompany the shipment along with any other required documentation.

5. Upon arrival in Bermuda all imported seed shipments are withheld by HM Customs for inspection by the DENR (PPS). [Imported seed shipments for commercial farmers are processed as a priority provided the invoice has been sent to the PPS for review and all other matters are in order].

- HM Customs will withhold all imported seed shipments for inspection by the PPS to ensure compliance with DENR entry requirements.
- Seeds imported without prior approval will be assessed for compliance with the seed entry requirements upon arrival. See NOTE on page 1 of this document. The shipment will be detained until the assessment is complete. Seed shipments not meeting the entry requirements will be confiscated and destroyed.
- Seed packaging that is not clearly and verifiably labeled and packaged from the commercial producer or does not meet the entry requirements will be confiscated and destroyed at the importer's expense. See 'NOTE:' on page 1 of this document.
- 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.
- If the seed shipment is approved for entry, it will be released to the importer or the shipping agent (FedEx, DHL, BWS etc.). Seed shipments arriving by container or air freight (courier agent) must have the Bermuda Customs Declaration (BCD) form stamped and signed by the DENR (PPS) prior to submission to Customs. Where necessary, the PPS 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 potatoes/tubers and mushroom seed/spores are not seeds. Please refer to the "[Procedures for the Importation of Propagation Material into Bermuda](#)" document for more information.

Please contact the Plant Protection Section at plants@gov.bm or 441-246-7587 for the most up to date version of this document and for any other questions.

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EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE PACKAGING:

Missing plant name, scientific name (Genus etc.), supplier, source etc.



EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE PACKAGING:

Present: Plant name, scientific names, supplier name and contact information etc.





GOVERNMENT OF BERMUDA
Ministry of Home Affairs

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Application to Import Seed (for Planting/Sowing)

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 meet all entry requirements. See 'Importation of Seed Material Procedures' for guidance. Shipments arriving without required documentation and/or not meeting the entry requirements will not be accepted. An Original Phytosanitary Certificate may be required.

Please note:

- All seed packages must be clearly and verifiably labelled from a reputable supplier;
- All seeds must be commercially packaged;
- Seeds will be inspected upon arrival;
- Seeds must be free of insects, soil, fungi, pulp and plant parts.
- Some seeds (incl. *Mangifera* and *Persea* spp.) are restricted entry and require an Import Permit and other supporting documentation which must be obtained prior to entry.
- See 'Importation of Seed Material Procedures' for entry requirements.

The following are prohibited entry:

- Palmae/ Arecaecae
- *Musa* spp. (includes *Ensete* spp.)
- 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
- Sprouted Seeds;
- Genetically modified seed

Quantity	Botanical Name of Seed 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: _____ Date: _____

For Departmental Use Only (if applicable):

Permit No.: _____

Date: _____