



Canadian Food  
Inspection Agency

Agence canadienne  
d'inspection des aliments

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**D-01-03**

**(EFFECTIVE DATE)**

March 26, 2002  
**(1<sup>st</sup> Revision)**

**Title**

**Plant Protection Requirements for Importations of Houseplants Intended for Personal Use from the Continental United States (US) and Hawaii.**

File

**SUBJECT**

This directive describes the requirements for personal importations of houseplants from the continental United States (U.S.) and Hawaii. These houseplants may be exempt, under prescribed conditions, from regular Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) phytosanitary (plant health) documentation import requirements. Information on commercial importations and specific plant species requirements are described in other policies.

*This policy has been revised to clarify the requirements for houseplants intended for personal use originating from areas regulated for Sudden oak Death (SOD), Phytophthora ramorum.*

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### Review

This directive will be reviewed every 5 years. The next review date for this directive is March 26, 2007. The contact for this directive is Joanne Rousson. For further information or clarification, please contact the Horticulture Section.

### Endorsement

Approved by:

<p>_____</p> <p>Director Plant Health and Production Division</p>
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### Amendment Record

Amendments to this directive will be dated and distributed as outlined in the distribution below.

### Distribution

1. Directive mail list (Regions, PHRA, USDA)
2. Provincial Government, Industry (via Regions)
3. National Industry Organizations (determined by Author)
4. Internet

### Introduction

Houseplants are usually tropical or semi-tropical plants that are grown or intended to be grown indoors in Canada and are usually used for ornamental purposes. The plant groupings which are currently considered as houseplants include foliage plants, orchids, bromeliads and flowering plants, ferns, cacti, and succulents. For houseplants imported from the continental U.S. and Hawaii, an exemption from regular documentation requirements is made because the risk of introducing quarantine pests into Canada from these commodities is low. Since houseplants are not intended for use for commercial propagation and are planted and remain planted indoors, they are not commonly linked with nursery stock or agricultural production areas or the environment. Because houseplants are kept indoors, the possibility of spreading pests or diseases is limited.

Scope	This directive is intended for use by Canadian Customs and Revenue Agency and CFIA inspection staff as well as travellers coming from the continental U.S. and Hawaii.
References	NAPPO Standard 978.008 Department of the Secretary of State of Canada. <i>The Canadian Style: A Guide to Writing and Editing</i> . Toronto, 1993. D-96-09, Plant Protection Import Requirements for Orchid Plants

**This document supercedes D-01-03 (Original) dated May 16, 2001.**

#### Definitions, Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>CFIA</b>	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
<b>Houseplants</b>	Tropical or semi-tropical plants, that cannot survive all seasons in Canada outdoors, grown or intended to be grown indoors, and usually used for ornamental purposes.
<b>Continental U.S.</b>	All the contiguous U.S. states and areas, including Alaska but excluding Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

## 1. General Requirements

### 1.1 Legislative Authority

*The Plant Protection Act, s.c. 1990, c.22*

*The Plant Protection Regulations, SOR/95-212*

*Canadian Food Inspection Agency Fees Notice, Canada Gazette, Part 1 (05/13/2000)*

### 1.2 Fees

The CFIA is charging fees in accordance with the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency Fees Notice*. For information regarding fees associated with imported product, please contact the Import Service Centres (ISC) at the following phone numbers: Eastern ISC 1-877-493-0468; Central ISC 1-800-835-4486; Western ISC 1-888-732-6222. Anyone requiring other information regarding fees may contact any local CFIA office or visit our website at [www.inspection.gc.ca](http://www.inspection.gc.ca).

### 1.3 Regulated pests

The following list names the major soil-inhabiting organisms that are listed as regulated pests of Canada. This list is subject to change and is not inclusive.

Alfalfa snout beetle, *Otiorynchus ligustici* (L);  
Apple maggot, *Rhagoletis pomonella* (Walsh);  
Blueberry maggot, *Rhagoletis mendax* Curran;  
Columbia root knot nematode, *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* Golden et al.;  
European brown garden snail, *Helix aspersa* Mueller;  
Golden nematode, *Globodera rostochiensis* (Woll);  
Japanese beetle, *Popillia japonica* Newm.;  
Soybean cyst nematode, *Heterodera glycines* Ichinoe  
Potato Rot Nematode, *Ditylenchus destructor*  
Sudden Oak Death, *Phytophthora ramorum*

### 1.4 Regulated Commodities

Houseplants of tropical or semi-tropical species, for personal and non-commercial use. (See Appendix 1 for examples of eligible plants and non-eligible species)

Note: Bonsai and Penjing plants are not eligible for the exemptions of this directive.

Note: Requirements for the importation of orchids are found in policy directive D-96-09.

### 1.5 Regulated Areas

Continental U.S. and Hawaii.

## 2.0 Specific Requirements

### 2.1 Prohibitions

Plants from Hawaii with soil, sand or related matter are prohibited entry into Canada.

Plants from SOD regulated areas with soil, sand or related matter are prohibited entry into Canada (refer to policy directive D-01-01).

### 2.2 Import Requirements

The import of houseplants under these specified conditions must be for personal and non-

commercial use only. For a shipment to be considered non-commercial, the total number of plants must not exceed 50 houseplants.

The houseplants must accompany the importer at time of entry into Canada, in baggage or as part of household effects. This directive does not include mail and courier importations of the regulated commodities intended for personal use and these importations must meet the standard plant import requirements.

Because the soil might be a source of quarantine pests, the houseplants must not be planted outside at any time even if they might not survive Canadian winters.

Note: Houseplants of some plant species must comply with the CITES requirements (See section 2.6)

## **2.3 Required Documentation**

### **2.3.1 Houseplants for personal and non-commercial use from continental U.S.**

A Permit to Import or a Phytosanitary Certificate is not required, except if the houseplants are from SOD regulated areas (refer to policy directive D-01-01 for details on regulatory requirements).

### **2.3.2 Houseplants for personal and non-commercial use from Hawaii**

A Permit to Import is not required, however plants must be bare-root and free of soil or growing medium. The houseplants must be accompanied by a federal Phytosanitary Certificate issued by or under the authority of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Note: Importation of houseplants not meeting the import requirements (section 2.2) or from all other countries requires a Permit to Import and a Phytosanitary Certificate.

## **2.4 Inspection Requirements**

All shipments of houseplants intended for personal use are subject to inspection on arrival in Canada to ensure compliance with these requirements and to determine if regulated pests are present. It is the traveller's responsibility to declare houseplants that are in their possession to Canada Customs and Revenue Agency when entering Canada. The cost of inspection is the responsibility of the traveller.

CFIA inspectors should

- 1) verify that plants from Hawaii are covered by a Phytosanitary Certificate.
- 2) inspect for freedom from quarantine pests.
- 3) inspect according to the general instructions in the Plant Protection Import Manual for greenhouseplants, Section 4.01.02.

## **2.5 Non-Compliance**

Houseplants which do not meet the requirements, or found to be infested with regulated pests will be refused entry, returned to origin, or disposed of at the importer's expense. The importer is responsible for any and all costs relating to treatment, disposal or removal, including costs incurred by CFIA to monitor the action taken.

## **2.6 Other**

CITES

Importation and exportation of designated plants, such as orchids and cacti, must comply with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) requirements.

Information on CITES requirements may be obtained by contacting:

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)  
Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada  
351. Boulevard St-Joseph, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Place Vincent Massey  
Hull, Quebec, JAY 3Z5  
Telephone: (819) 997-1840 Fax: (819) 953-6283 email address:  
[http://www.ec.gc.ca/cws-scf/cites/intro\\_e.html](http://www.ec.gc.ca/cws-scf/cites/intro_e.html)

## **3. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Examples of eligible plants and non-eligible species

## APPENDIX 1

## EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PLANTS

Note: This list is not inclusive

**Bromeliads and Flowering Plants**

African Violet	<i>Saintpaulia</i> spp.
Bromeliads	<i>Bromeliaceae</i> spp.
Gloxinias	<i>Sinningia speciosa</i>
Poinsettias	<i>Euphorbia</i> spp.
Tillandsia	<i>Tillandsia circinnata</i>

**Foliage Plants**

Airplane or Spiderplant	<i>Chlorophytum</i> spp.
Crotons	<i>Codiaeum</i> spp.
Dieffenbachias	<i>Dieffenbachia</i> spp.
Ferns	
Fittonias	<i>Fittonia</i> spp..
Marantas	<i>Maranta</i> spp.
Monstera	<i>Monstera</i> spp.
Peace Lily	<i>Spathiphyllum</i> spp.
Peperomia	<i>Peperomia</i> spp.
Philodendrons	<i>Philodendron</i> spp.
Pothos	<i>Scindapsus</i> spp.
Scheffleras	<i>Schefflera</i> spp

**Succulents** (CITES may be required)

Aloe Vera	<i>Aloe</i> spp.
Crown-of-thorns	<i>Euphorbia milii</i>
Jade Plants	<i>Crassula</i> spp.

**Cacti** (CITES may be required)

Barrel Cactus	<i>Ferocactus</i> spp.
Christmas Cactus	<i>Schlumbergera bridgesii</i>
Easter Cactus	<i>Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri</i>



## EXAMPLES OF NON-ELIGIBLE PLANTS

Note: This list is not inclusive.

Note: Any specific species requirements or prohibitions take precedence over the house plant import requirements outlined in this directive.

Azaleas	<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.
Coleus	<i>Coleus</i> spp.
Cyclamens	<i>Cyclamen</i> spp.
Chrysanthemums	<i>Chrysanthemums</i> spp., <i>Dendranthema</i> spp., and <i>Leucanthemella serotina</i>
Hibiscus	<i>Hibiscus</i> spp.
Hydrangeas	<i>Schizophragma hydrangeoides</i>
Primrose	<i>Primula</i> spp.
Ivy	<i>Hedera</i> spp. <i>Nicotiana</i> spp. <i>Solanum</i> spp.

Aquatic plants in aquaria

### Trees and shrubs (including Bonsai and Penjing)

Apple	<i>Malus</i> spp.
Cherry, Peach, Plum, etc.	<i>Prunus</i> spp.
Christmas Trees (potted)	<i>Abies</i> spp., <i>Pseudotsuga</i> spp., <i>Tsuga</i> spp., <i>Picea</i> spp., <i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>
Elm	<i>Ulmus</i> spp., <i>Zelkova</i> spp.
Juniper	<i>Juniperus</i> spp.
Pear	<i>Pyrus</i> spp.
Pine	<i>Pinus</i> spp.
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> spp.
Spruce	<i>Picea</i> spp.

### Flower bulbs

Begonias	<i>Begonia</i> spp.
Daffodils	<i>Narcissus</i> spp.
Gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus</i> spp.
Hyacinths	<i>Hyacinthus</i> spp.
Iris	<i>Iris</i> spp.
Tulip	<i>Tulipa</i> spp.

### Vegetables

Eggplant, potato	<i>Solanum</i> spp.
Onions, chives, leeks, shallots	<i>Allium</i> spp.
Tomato	<i>Lycopersicon</i> sp.