



Import prohibitions when importing from non-EU-countries

(Exception: Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Northern Ireland)

For some plants, import from non-EU countries is generally prohibited! This includes

- most conifers
- some deciduous trees (sweet chestnut, oak, poplar from North America)
- fruit trees and Photinia
- grapevine
- Citrus plants
- loose soil and growing medium
- plants from the nightshade family
- potato tubers
- many grass species



Further information on import restrictions of various commodities can be found on the Customs website (www.zoll.de)

Information sources

Specific import and export instructions for travellers, companies, scientific institutions, etc. and a list of the competent phytosanitary services in Germany to which you can address for further details can be found at <https://pflanzen-gesundheit.julius-kuehn.de>

JKI-info sheet: Plant souvenirs with unexpected consequences

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Plant souvenirs with unexpected consequences

Import restrictions
and
import prohibitions
in
passenger travel





In order to protect endangered animals and plant species, import bans and restrictions in accordance with the "Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (Cites) are to be applied, without exception! www.cites.org
www.artenschutz-online.de



Unexpected consequences of plant souvenirs

Worldwide tourism and trade offer many ways for the introduction and spread of foreign plant diseases and pests which may,

- affect plant production
- make an increased application of plant protection products necessary, or
- cause significant damage to plants in the open landscape and private and public green spaces
- in Germany and Europe.

Well-known examples are the Asian long-horned beetle on woody plants, e.g. maple and cherry as well as the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. This bacterium first appeared mainly on olives in southern Italy but is now severely damaging various plant species in many countries in the Mediterranean region.

Your supposedly harmless holiday souvenir can undetected become a pathway for plant diseases and pests – even without this being outwardly recognisable to you. As a result, significant damage can be caused throughout the EU. To protect the health of our plants, EU-wide regulations for the import of plants and plant products are in place. These include import prohibitions and restrictions for plants and plant products

Please, do not bring home any plants and plant products from your holidays!

The risk of introducing undetected plant diseases and pests is very high. Caution is advised with fruits, vegetables, seeds and cut flowers, too. Harmful organisms are often not visible to the naked eye (including viruses and bacteria) and can thus be easily spread.

To be sure that your plant souvenirs will not be confiscated upon entry into the country you should inform yourself before you travel. The responsible plant protection service of your Federal State provides information on the import regulations and is available for information.

Import from non-EU-countries to Europe (Exception: Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Northern Ireland)

For all plants and plant products imported from non-EU countries a phytosanitary certificate is required that is issued by the responsible plant protection authority in the holiday country. This authority must inspect the plants and plant products before certifying with the phytosanitary certificate that the goods comply with the EU import requirements. Certain plants and plant products may only be imported if special requirements are met, e.g. mandatory treatments.

Plants intended for growing in your garden, on the balcony or indoors, for example, must be registered with the Plant Protection Service on entry so that an import inspection can be carried out.

If you cannot present a phytosanitary certificate at the border, the plants and plant products are usually destroyed. You must expect to pay a fine and to have to bear the costs of destruction.

There are no exceptions from import restrictions and prohibitions for travellers and private use!

Import from EU-countries and Switzerland

You are allowed to bring plants for private use from most areas of EU-Member States and Switzerland. No phytosanitary certificate is required. This does not apply for the EU-regions Ceuta, Melilla, Canary Islands, Guadeloupe, French-Guiana, Martinique, Mayotte, Réunion, St. Barthélemy and St. Martin.

Since the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* occurred in several countries in the Mediterranean region, and has already caused considerable damage there, it is not permitted to bring certain plant species from infested areas, e.g. Apulia in southern Italy, Corsica and the Balearic Islands (e. g. Mallorca). To prevent the spread of plant diseases and pests you should avoid bringing back plants and plant products from your travels, even within the EU. Alternatively, you can obtain more detailed information about the infestation situation at your holiday destination from your plant protection service. Please follow these instructions and inform yourself before your holiday.