

Commodity Import Requirements

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Phalaenopsis spp. in Approved Growing Media Program - Germany and the Netherlands

This document contains current import requirements for the selected article(s) from a designated country or region into one or more designated ports.

Header

Commodities:	Phalaenopsis
Port Groups:	CITES Ports with Plant Inspection Stations
Countries:	Germany Netherlands
Plant Part:	All Plant Parts Except Seeds
Intended Use:	Plants for Planting

Important Information

1 There are currently **no** APHIS approved facilities authorized to export these plants in growing media to the U.S.

2 There is currently no signed operational workplan (OWP).

3

Orchidaceae:

Orchidaceae family plants for planting are regulated by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and must have a CITES permit or certificate. Most Orchidaceae are CITES Appendix II (all propagules except seeds) unless noted otherwise.

- USDA regulation 7 CFR 355 requires that you possess a valid USDA Protected Plant Permit (Complete PPQ Form 621) and a CITES Permit/Certificate from country of origin.
- Also, a permit for propagation (PPQ Form 587).

4

CITES Plants: Permits and Certificates:

- If you are in the business of importing, exporting, or re-exporting CITES regulated plants and plant products, USDA regulation 7 CFR 355 requires that you possess a valid USDA Protected Plant Permit, PPQ 621. To obtain a permit go to [APHIS eFile](#)
- If you have questions regarding the application process for the Protected Plant Permit or PPQ form 621, please call (301) 851-2046 or Email: PPQCITESAPermits@usda.gov

CITES Permit/Certificate from country of origin.

- [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(FWS\)](#) also requires CITES import permits/certificates from country of origin.

Importations of live plants and seeds **must** also obtain permits under the USDA's 7 CFR 319 Subpart H—Plants for Planting. Complete [PPQ Form 587](#). To obtain a permit go to [APHIS eFile](#) Additional information:

- CITES Appendix I; includes seeds unless listed otherwise -
 - If listed on **Appendix I**, a CITES import permit from the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** is also required. Obtain additional information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, online at <https://fwsepermits.servicenowservices.com/fwse> or call (703) 358-2095.
- CITES Appendix II; includes seeds unless listed otherwise
- CITES Appendix III; includes seeds unless listed otherwise

CITES Ports and Accompanying Documentation

- CITES shipments **MUST** enter at a CITES designated port
- CITES shipments Not entering a CITES designated port and accompanied by CITES documents shall be
 - Reexported to the country of origin OR
 - Rerouted to a CITES designated port

NOTE: Invalid or missing CITES documents can result in forfeiture of shipment according to 7 CFR 356

NOTE: Shipping and handling charges are the responsibility of the importer.

Official CITES Appendices - Confirm that the commodity is a CITES Appendix I, Appendix II, or Appendix III protected plant species

- We update CITES information regularly, HOWEVER:
- For the most current CITES information on listed plants please refer to <https://cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php> or <https://checklist.cites.org/#/en>

5 Certain plants and plant products developed using genetic engineering are regulated under 7 CFR part 340 and must be imported with a valid APHIS Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) - Permit. Please call (301) 851-3886 or email Biotechquery@usda.gov for more information.

Alerts

No imports are authorized at this time. Import permits will not be issued.

Import Requirements

1 NOTICE: import permits will not be issued at this time.

1.1 If you are in the business of importing, exporting or re-exporting CITES or ESA regulated plants and plant products, USDA regulation [7 CFR 355](#) requires that you possess a valid USDA Protected Plant Permit, [APHIS PPQ 621](#).

2 This commodity is subject to inspection at the port of entry and all requirements of [7 CFR 319.37-8](#).

2.1

- Present commodity for inspection at the USDA Plant Inspection Station (PIS) upon entry, unless exempted. If a shipment arrives at port without a plant inspection station, USDA and the Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist (CBP-AS) **must** approve any transfer or subsequent movement to a PIS.

- Commodities imported through passenger baggage **must** be sent to a PIS unless exempted. Surrender the commodity to a CBP-AS upon arrival in the U.S. Importer pays costs to move the commodity from the port of arrival to the PIS.

3 All plants for planting **must** be accompanied by an original **phytosanitary certificate** issued **not** more than 15 days prior to shipment of regulated plants for planting from the country in which they were grown and **must be one of the following**:

- Signed original (hardcopy on plain paper or security paper that is wet signed or digitally signed); **OR**
- Scan of signed, original hardcopy uploaded to Customs and Border Protection's (CBP's) Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) using the Document Imaging System (DIS); **OR**
- Electronic phytosanitary certificate created and shared through a participating country's ePhyto system (digital exchange).

The phytosanitary certificate must contain the following information, unless stated otherwise :

- Certify the place of origin for all contents of the shipment;
- Certify the shipment has been inspected and/or tested according to appropriate official procedures and is considered free from quarantine pests of the United States;
- Certify that the shipment conforms with the phytosanitary requirements of the United States and is considered eligible for importation pursuant to the laws and regulations of the United States;
- Identify the genus;
- If individual species or cultivars within a genus have additional restrictions, then identify the species or cultivar;
- If there are **no** additional restrictions, then the species or cultivar is strongly preferred;
- If the plant is budded, grafted, or otherwise contains interpolated plant parts, then identify all plant parts (e.g., interstem, rootstock, or scion) that belong to restricted taxa to the lowest regulated taxon (genus, species, cultivar);
- If a hybrid plant has NAPPRA parent(s) (one or both), then regulate as NAPPRA;
- Hybrids may be listed as hybrid, hybrida, hybridum, hybridus, or hybr.;
- If a hybrid plant, then list the parent taxa if they are known (If the hybrid parents **cannot** be fully listed, the phytosanitary certificate may state that the parents of the hybrids **do not** include a restricted taxa);
- Intergeneric and interspecific hybrids **must** be designated by placing the multiplication sign "x" between the names of the parent taxa; and
- If the hybrid is named, the multiplication sign "x" may instead be placed before the name of an intergeneric hybrid or before the epithet in the name of an interspecific hybrid.

NOTICE: PPQ recommends that the information on the phytosanitary certificate, container, invoice, and packing list match and be written in English (or fully translated to English) to avoid delays in processing.

3.1 The shipment of Plants for planting (except seeds and unrooted cuttings) from a country of origin regulated for potato cyst nematodes must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate containing either one of the following additional declarations:

- The plant was grown on land or in substrate which has been microscopically inspected by the national plant protection organization of the country in which it was grown within 12 months preceding issuance of the certificate and found free from potato cyst nematodes *Globodera rostochiensis* and *Globodera pallida*.

OR

- The plant has been grown within a secure environment in a production area that is free of potato cyst nematodes, in a soilless growing medium or invitro and has **never** been grown in soil **nor** come in contact with soil.

4 Approved taxa in growing media **must** meet the requirements listed in the Plants in Growing Media Program Basic Requirements detailed below (refer to the Additional Requirements section of this document).

Arrival Information

Notification of Arrival

Promptly upon arrival of any plants for planting at a port of entry, the importer shall notify the Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Programs of the arrival by such means as:

- Manifest;
- Customs entry document;
- Commercial invoice;
- Waybill;
- Broker's document; or
- Notice form provided for that purpose.

The advance notice of arrival alerts plant inspection station staff and helps with scheduling and inspection of commercial and non-commercial (e.g., packages with Green/Yellow Permit Labels) shipments. Contact your local plant inspection station for notification of arrival and any local procedures for inspection appointments, etc. Refer to Plant Inspection Stations in the ACIR [Facilities](#) tab for contact information.

NOTICE

A completed APHIS Core Message set for each commodity for importation meets the notification requirement to PPQ and may also serve notice to Customs and Border Protection's Agriculture Inspection Program.

Rel
of

Plants or Plant Parts (including Seeds) for Planting from Port of First Arrival

Articles **cannot** be removed from the port of first arrival until after the inspector has determined that all import requirements have been satisfied.

Exception: If a shipment of regulated articles for planting arrives at a port **without** a USDA plant inspection station, then CBP/PPQ will determine whether the shipment can be forwarded to the nearest plant inspection station.

Packaging and Labelling Requirements

6.1 Must not be packed in the same container as plants for planting whose importation into the United States is Not Authorized Pending Pest risk Analysis (NAPPPRA) in accordance with 7 CFR § 319.37-4.

6.2 Must be accompanied by packing list indicating:

- Contents of each box or container in the consignment/shipment
- Scientific name to the lowest plant taxon
- The weight of the seed (grams or kilograms) or number of plant units of each plant taxon
- References each box number on both the packing list and the physical box.

6.3 Label Each container with genus and species. If the container holds more than one species, label each species separately. Keep shipments with more than one plant species in separate packaging (i.e. box, bag, crate, rack etc.). If a pest is found on any articles in a package, inspectors may order emergency measures (i.e. treatment, re-export or destruction).

6.4

Imported as Cargo (i.e., air cargo; maritime shipment (sea cargo); tractor trailer, truck, van, etc.)

Must plainly and correctly display the information listed below on the outer container (if in a container) or attach it to the articles (if not in a container).

- General nature of contents;
- Quantity of contents (weight of the seeds or number of plant units);
- Country and locality where grown;
- Name and address of shipper, owner, or person shipping or forwarding the consignments;
- Name and address of consignee;
- Identifying shipper's mark and number;
- Permit number authorizing the importation, **IF** a permit was required under 7 CFR § 319.37-5.

6.5

Consignments imported by mail, express carrier, or in passenger baggage

The shipment must bear a **GREEN AND YELLOW** label showing the address of the PIS as well as the following information:

- general nature and quantity of the contents;
- country and locality grown;
- name and address of shipper;
- owner or person shipping or forwarding the article.

The address of the PIS must be the only address appearing on the package exterior The permittee should use a green and yellow mailing label for each parcel.

- The permittee's name, address, telephone number, and permit number be enclosed with each parcel. Instruct your supplier to **place only green and yellow labels, and NOT your name or address, on the outside of the parcel.**
- You may print the PPQ Form 508 (Green/Yellow labels) using eFile. Otherwise, send your request to greenandyellowplantslabelrequest@usda.gov. Specify the approved port(s) listed on the permit where you wish the plant materials sent.
- The label must be printed in color and attached with clear tape to the exterior of each package. The permittee is responsible for supplying labels to the shipper and instructing the shipper to carefully follow all shipping instructions. The permittee is responsible for each shipping label issued under this permit.

7 Must be accompanied by a valid CITES export permit from the country of export.

8

Size and Age

All herbaceous plants for planting must meet the following size, age and growing media requirements for import.

Size and Age

- **Whole plants** are admissible if they show **18 inches (457 mm) or less** from the soil line.
- **Root clumps or root crowns** of perennial herbaceous plants (**except** epiphytes), with or without sprouts, are admissible if they are **4 inches (102 mm) or less** in diameter.
 - **Root clumps or root crowns** of epiphytes with or without aerial roots (without branches, leaves, or sprouts) are admissible if they are **4 inches (102 mm) or less** in diameter **and 6 feet (1.83 meters) or less** in length.
- **Stem cuttings** (**except** epiphytes) **without** branches (canes), leaves, roots, and sprouts are admissible if they show **4 inches (102 mm) or less** in diameter **and 6 feet (1.83 meters) or less** in total length.

- **Stem cuttings** of epiphytes with or without aerial roots (**without** branches, leaves, or sprouts) are admissible if they are **4 inches (102 mm) or less** in diameter **and 6 feet (1.83 meters) or less** in length.
- **Stem cuttings (except epiphytes) with** branches (canes), leaves, roots, and sprouts are admissible if they if they show **18 inches (457 mm) or less** from the soil line.
 - **Stem cuttings** of epiphytes imported with branches, leaves, or sprouts are admissible if they are **18 inches (457 mm) or less** in total length.
- Plant parts other than those listed above are admissible if they show **18 inches (457 mm) or less** in total length.

Growing Media

- All plants for planting at the time of importation into the United States **must be free of sand, soil, earth, and other growing media**, unless meeting an exception to these conditions.
- Exceptions to Growing Media General Restriction
 - APHIS-approved plant taxa in an growing media program ¹
 - Epiphytic plants (including orchid plants) established solely on (see ACIR General Restrictions Reference document) but not in, may be imported on the following growing media:
 - Coconut husks
 - Coconut fiber
 - New clay pots
 - New wooden baskets²
 - Tree fern slabs³
- Plants growing solely in agar or in other agar-like tissue culture media
- Plants from Canada when meeting Canadian Origin Plants in Growing Media requirements⁴

¹ See ACIR's Plants in Growing Media Program reference document ^{2, 3, 4} For complete details see ACIR's General Restrictions reference document

Authority

Name	Description	Statute URL
50 CFR 23	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=0aff125a7c7f18f27458b674e61a77e9&mc=true&node=pt50.9.23
50 CFR 24	The regulations contained in this part are for the purpose of establishing ports for the importation, exportation and reexportation of plants.	https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-I/subchapter-B/part-24
7 CFR 319.Subpart H	Subpart H-Plants for Planting	https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=9a23ef261556cf11bd3cf842c0316cea&mc=true&node=pt7.5.319
	Notice of Decision to Authorize	

Docket No. APHIS-2024-0001	Importation of Phalaenopsis Spp. Orchid Plants for Planting in Approved Growing Media From Germany and the Netherlands Into the United States	https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/07/22/2025-13763/notice-of-decision-to-authorize-import
50 CFR 17	Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants	https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=0aff125a7c7f18f27458b674e61a77e9&mc=true&tpl=/ecfrbrowse

Additional Requirements

1

Offshore Program covered by an Operational Workplan (OWP)

2 Plants in Growing Media Program Basic Requirements

- Approved taxa imported in approved growing media from approved facilities (**except** *Hyacinthus* which has separate program requirements) **must** meet the following requirements:
 - Be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of the country in which the plants were grown, with an additional declaration that:
 - The plants meet the conditions of the APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) plants in approved growing media program;
 - Be **only** in approved growing media (baked expanded clay pellets, coal cinder, coir, cork, glass wool, organic and inorganic fibers, peat, perlite, phenol formaldehyde, plastic particles, polyethylene, polymer stabilized starch, polystyrene, polyurethane, rock wool, sphagnum moss, ureaformaldehyde, Stockosorb® superabsorbent polymer, vermiculite, volcanic rock, or zeolite, or any combination of these media);
 - Approved growing media **must not** have been previously used;
 - Be grown in compliance with a written agreement (bilateral work plan) for enforcement of this program signed by the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of the country where grown and APHIS-PPQ;
 - Be developed from mother stock that was inspected and found free from evidence of quarantine pests by an APHIS inspector or foreign plant protection service inspector no more than 60 days prior to the time the plant is established in the greenhouse (except for plants developed from seeds germinated in the greenhouse);
 - Grower agrees to comply with the provisions of the program and to allow inspectors, and representatives of the NPPO of the country where the article is grown, access to the growing facility as necessary to monitor compliance with the provisions of this program;
 - Be grown solely in a greenhouse in which sanitary procedures adequate to exclude quarantine pests are always employed, including cleaning and disinfection of floors, benches and tools, and the application of measures to protect against any quarantine pests;
 - Greenhouse **must** be free from sand and soil and **must** have screening with openings of **not** more than 0.6 mm (0.2 mm for greenhouses growing *Rhododendron*) on **all** vents and openings **except** entryways;
 - Greenhouse entryways **must** all be equipped with automatic closing doors;
 - Be rooted and grown in an active state of foliar growth for at least four consecutive months immediately prior to importation into the United States, in a greenhouse unit that is used **solely** for articles grown in compliance with this program;

- Be grown from seeds germinated in the greenhouse unit; or descended from a mother plant that was grown for at least 9 months in the exporting country prior to importation into the United States of the descendant plants; if the mother plant was imported into the exporting country from another country, then the mother plant **must** be:
 - Grown for at least 12 months in the exporting country prior to importation of the descendant plants into the United States or
 - Treated at the time of importation into the exporting country with a treatment prescribed for quarantine pests of that plant by the NPPO of the exporting country, and then grown for at least 9 months in the exporting country prior to importation of the descendant plants into the United States;
- Be watered **only** with rainwater that has been boiled or pasteurized, with clean well water, or with potable water;
- Be rooted and grown in approved growing media (see the table below) on benches supported by legs and raised at least 46 cm above the floor;
- Be stored and packaged **only** in areas free of sand, soil, earth, and quarantine pests; and
- Be inspected in the greenhouse and found free from evidence of quarantine pests by an APHIS inspector or an inspector of the national plant protection organization (NPPO) of the exporting country, **no** more than 30 days prior to the date of export to the United States.
- Refer to ACIR for the appropriate Commodity Import Requirement documents to check for any additional requirements that apply to specific taxa.

3

CITES II #4

Live plants, whole dead specimens, and all parts and derivatives are regulated except the following: All parts and derivatives, except:

- a) seeds (including seedpods of Orchidaceae), spores and pollen (including pollinia). The exemption does not apply to seeds from Cactaceae spp. exported from Mexico, and to seeds from *Beccariophoenix madagascariensis* and *Dyopsis decaryi* exported from Madagascar;
- b) seedling or tissue cultures obtained in vitro transported in sterile containers;
- c) cut flowers of artificially propagated plants;
- d) fruits, and parts and derivatives thereof, of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genus *Vanilla* (Orchidaceae) and of the family Cactaceae;
- e) stems, flowers, and parts and derivatives thereof, of naturalized or artificially propagated plants of the genera *Opuntia* subgenus *Opuntia* and *Selenicereus* (Cactaceae);
- f) finished products of *Aloe ferox* and *Euphorbia antisiphilitica* packaged and ready for retail trade; and
- g) finished products derived from artificial propagation packaged and ready for retail trade of cosmetics containing parts and derivatives of *Bletilla striata*, *Cynoches cooperi*, *Gastrodia elata*, *Phalaenopsis amabilis* or *Phalaenopsis lobbii*

Annotations See the ACIR Procedure document entitled Plants for Planting - Protected Plants - CITES and ESA for details on annotations. For Cactaceae see the entry for **P1**. For Orchidaceae refer to **P3**.

Related Documents

Document Name	Document Type
Plants for Planting - Plants in Growing Media Programs	Reference Documents