

What is organic seeds?

Organic seeds are produced naturally by organic gardening and farming methods without the aid of pesticides or any other chemical substance. They come from a certified organic operation, which use no chemicals throughout their growing processes.

What is Heirloom seeds?

Heirloom seeds, cultivar passed down through generations, grown for their unique flavour and preservation of genetic variation in food crops. They are open-pollinators, meaning they are pollinated naturally by birds, insects, wind, or human hands.

What is Hybrid seeds?

Hybrid seeds are seeds that have been produced by deliberately crossing two different varieties of the same plant species. They are developed for a reliable agricultural industry, offering resistance to disease, uniform maturity dates, and a combination of traits from two parent plants.

What is Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) seeds?

GMO seeds are created in labs via gene modification for desirable traits by injecting seeds with genes from another plant. Some of these traits could be withstanding drier weather conditions or harmful insects.

How is all this important for your gardens?

Hint: Growing organically with non-GMO seeds is always a good choice for your garden.

Import permit & Inspection Procedure

- ⇒ Apply for Import Permit
- ⇒ Find forms: www.doa.gov.ky
- ⇒ Email forms: ciagriculturalimports@gov.ky
- ⇒ Pay applicable import permit fee
- ⇒ Obtain import permit response within 3 working days.
- ⇒ Send import permit to the supplier to meet the import conditions.
- ⇒ Declare and present import documents to Customs and Border Control and Agriculture for entry clearance .
- ⇒ On arrival present seeds to Department of Agriculture for inspection.
- ⇒ Allow post entry follow up inspection at site of production.

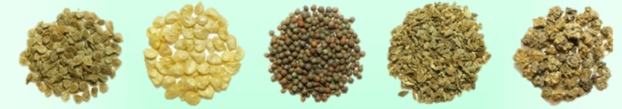
Documents needed for Inspection

- ⇒ Import Permit
- ⇒ Phytosanitary Certificate for Seeds (*where applicable*)
- ⇒ Supplier's Invoice
- ⇒ Bill of Lading or Airway Bill (*where applicable*)

Import Inspection

- ⇒ Notify AHIS Office via Telephone or email (345 946-2967/ ciagricultureimports@gov.ky)
- ⇒ Sign taskforce invoice (when applicable)
- ⇒ Pay inspection fee (when applicable)

THE SEEDS



IMPORT PROCESS



Department of Agriculture
Cayman Islands Government

Agricultural Health Inspection Services (AHIS)

Phone: (345) 946-2967

Email: ciagricultureimports@gov.ky

ROLE & FUNCTION

The basic purpose of the Agricultural Health Inspection Services (AHIS) Unit :

1. **Quarantine Inspection:** The inspection of plants, animals , their products and regulated articles being imported or exported to ensure they meet health & safety standards, free from pest, diseases and contaminants
2. **Monitoring and Surveillance:** For quarantine important pests, monitoring their presence and spread to prevent harm to agricultural crops, livestock, and ecosystems in the Cayman Islands.

OBJECTIVE

1. **Protect cultivated and natural flora and fauna:** Through inspection, AHIS Unit work to protect Cayman Islands' cultivated and natural flora and fauna from the entry of invasive pests and diseases, ensuring safety and sustainability.
2. **Compliance with Import and Export Laws and Regulations:** The AHIS Unit enforces Plants and Animals Import and Export Laws and Regulations to maintain quality, safety, and biosecurity, preventing pests and diseases from being introduced through international trade.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Laws governing the importation of seeds:

- **The Plant Protection Act, 2023** and it's Regulations
- **National Conservation Act , 2013**

QUICK TIPS

An import permit issued by the Department of Agriculture is required to import seeds into the Cayman Islands regardless of the quantity.

Important documents required for the importation of seeds into the Cayman Islands are:

- ◆ **An Import Permit**
- ◆ **Phytosanitary Certificate** for non-certified untreated and loose treated seeds

What is an Import Permit (IP)?

An Import Permit is an official document authorizing the importation of agricultural commodities, outlining specific phytosanitary conditions to mitigate the importation of pest and diseases associated with commodities. Before placing an order, the import permit must be obtained and forwarded to the supplier and National Plant Protection Organization in the country of export .

What is a Phytosanitary Certificate?

An official document issued by a Plant Protection Organization attesting that exported plants or products and regulated articles comply with the phytosanitary import requirements, crucial for international trade to prevent pests and diseases, and ensuring compliance with importing country regulations.

What is seed certification?

Seed certification is an internationally recognized system to preserve the genetic identity and purity of crop varieties.

What is a the purpose of seed certification?

Seed certification ensures high-quality seed and propagating materials for superior crop varieties, ensuring varietal identity and purity. Proper identification is essential for all stakeholders, including breeders, commercial growers, seed cleaners, distributors, and farmers.

What is a the importance of seeds certification?

Certified seed is crucial for successful crop improvement, resulting from years of research and development. Inspections and pedigree records verify genetic identity and purity of improved varieties.

How is seed certified?

Seed certification involves planting eligible stocks, field inspection, conditioning, sampling, laboratory analysis, and labeling.

Why buy certified seed?

Seed certification ensures high-quality seed production, ensuring germination and purity standards are met by the inspecting agency, symbolizing the variety and quality of the seed.

Sealed commercially packaged certified seeds can be exempted from Phytosanitary certification.