



Department of Agriculture
Cayman Islands Government

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Conditions for the Importation of Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) Plants from the USA into the Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Plants (Importation & Exportation) Act

AIM

The condition aims to protect agriculture, natural ecosystems, and the biodiversity of the Cayman Islands from the introduction of plant pests and diseases, while allowing the safe trade of Poinsettia plants for decorative purposes only.

Scope

These conditions apply to the importation of *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (Poinsettia) plants originating from the states in the United States of America officially recognised as free from *Bemisia tabaci* (Q biotype).

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Plant Import Permit

- i. Importers must submit a completed application on the prescribed form to obtain a Plant Import Permit from the Cayman Islands Department of Agriculture (DoA).
- ii. The completed application must be accompanied by the applicable fees.
- iii. The DoA will process the applications in accordance with the Plant (Importation & Exportation) Act.
- iv. A response to the application will be issued within 72 hours of receiving the completed form.

2. Consultation with Exporting NPPO

- i. Importers/ exporters must present the import permit issued by the DoA to the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO) of the exporting country.
- ii. The NPPO will provide guidance on the specific conditions for the importation of Plants into the Cayman Islands.

3. Phytosanitary Certification

- i. The consignment must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate issued in accordance with International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 12.
- ii. All treatments applied must be listed on the Phytosanitary Certificate.
- iii. The Import Permit number must be referenced on the Phytosanitary Certificate.
- iv. All consignments must be shipped within seven (7) days of the issuance of the Phytosanitary Certificate unless otherwise stated.
- v. Consignments not listed and/or in excess of quantities stated on the Phytosanitary Certificate and invoice will be confiscated for destruction.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. Background Information

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) is a subtropical, deciduous, woody shrub or small tree reaching 3 m tall. The poinsettia is native to Mexico and Central America, where it was cultivated by the Aztecs for its vibrant red bracts and medicinal properties. Over time, it became closely associated with Christmas due to its festive colouration and winter blooming cycle.

Its evolution into a popular houseplant was driven by advances in greenhouse cultivation and breeding, which allowed growers to produce compact, long-lasting varieties ideal for indoor display. Its available in a range of colours including red, white, pink, and marbled.

Poinsettias can harbour several regulated pests that are of concern to plant quarantine authorities due to their potential to spread and damage local flora, such as white flies, thrips, mealy bugs, scale insects, mites, nematodes, and fungal pathogens.

2. Quarantine and Treatment Agreement

The nursery exporting poinsettia plants **must** agree to quarantine all plants and pre-treat according to the specified in the conditions.

3. Origin

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) **must** originate from states that are declared free of *Bemisia tabaci* Q-type (MED) according to USDA APHIS PPQ S & T PPRA, December 7, 2023.

States listed where *Bemisia tabaci* Q-type (MED) has **NOT** been detected are:

Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming.

Should the pest-free status of the specified states listed above change after issuance of an import permit, then importation will only be allowed from a **pest-free area of production (ISPM 04)** in that state.

4. Prohibited Origin

Importation is **not permitted** from any USA state or territory where *Bemisia tabaci* Q-type (MED) has been reported or is under official control.

The Cayman Islands will not accept nursery stock originating from previously quarantined nurseries until a period of sixty (60) days has passed since their removal from quarantine.

5. Treatment

Two treatments are required, a drench and foliar application. Shipping is permitted 24 hours after final treatment to within 7 days of issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate.

i. **First treatment -day one (1):**

The growing medium in which nursery stocks are potted must be drenched using:

- a. **Systemic Insecticide** (dinotefuran or an alternate with the same efficacy)
- b. **Nematicide**

ii. **Second treatment: Within days nine to twelve (9-12) of the first treatment.**

A foliar application on all plant materials using:

- a. **Systemic and Contact Insecticide** (flupyradifurone/acetamipride or an alternate with the same efficacy)
- b. **Protectant Fungicide**
- c. **Liquid Molluscicide**

iii. Final Treatment must be witnessed by the NPPO Federal or State Inspector.

6. Weed-Free Nursery Stock

All nursery stock **must** be free from weeds and any other foreign materials which may harbour pests.

7. Pre-export Inspection

Prior to export, consignments must undergo a **visual inspection** by an authorised officer of the National Plant Protection Organisation to ensure freedom from all life stages of *Bemisia tabaci* and other quarantine pests.

8. Intended Use and Size

- I. Plants must be imported for Christmas decoration purposes only and not for propagation or planting.
- II. Plants should be miniature type, in container size not exceeding 6.5 inches or 1 gallon.

9. Pest Management Upon Arrival in the Cayman Islands

If live *white flies* or other quarantine pests are detected, the consignment shall be **detained, treated, re-exported, or destroyed** at the importer's expense.

- Any detection of *Bemisia tabaci* (Q biotype) during post-entry laboratory analysis shall result in immediate notification to USDA-APHIS-PPQ and possible suspension of imports from that area.

Failure to comply with these regulations may result in seizure and destruction of non-compliant commodities.

Literature Cited

Exportation of poinsettia, *Euphorbia pulcherrima* from United States to Cayman Islands
Technical Information, December 7, 2023.

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/trade/imports/imports>

FAO, 2017, International Plant Protection Convention, ISPM 4