



Department of Agriculture
Cayman Islands Government

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Conditions for the Importation of Avocado (*Persea americana*) Propagative Materials (Budwood and Grafted Liners) from USA into the Cayman Islands

Cayman Islands Plants (Importation & Exportation) Act

PURPOSE

The purpose of establishing phytosanitary import conditions for avocado (*Persea americana*) propagative materials (budwood and grafted liners) is to prevent the introduction and spread of plant pests and diseases that pose a risk to the Cayman Islands' agriculture, natural environment, and biodiversity. These conditions ensure that the importation is conducted in compliance with national biosecurity requirements and international standards, thereby facilitating safe trade.

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 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 Seventy- two (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

To protect local agriculture and biodiversity from the introduction of harmful pests and diseases, the importation of Avocado (*Persea Americana*) propagative materials (Budwood and grafted liners) must adhere to the following mandatory conditions:

1. Prohibited Origin

- i. Importation will **not** be permitted from any state or territory where *Laurel Wilt Disease* has been reported.
- ii. 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.

2. Mother Tree disease status

Mother trees must be free of graft-transmissible diseases such as Avocado Sunblotch Viroid, and other plant viruses or pathogens.

3. Treatment

Mother Plants Orchard

A foliar application every fourteen (14) days using:

- Systemic insecticides, such as deltamethrin or equivalent, target scale insects, whiteflies, thrips and mealy bugs.
- Fungicide, Mefenoxam and Azoxystrobin or equivalent

Cuttings/Budwood

- Must be extracted from the mother plants within ten (10) days of the pesticide treatment interval.
- Must be clean cut, free of debris and contaminants
- Free of arthropods, scale, mites, thrips, any other pests, and soil
- Must be treated with a protectant fungicide prior to shipping

Grafted Liners

- Plants must not be older than twelve (12) months post-grafting.
- Grafted avocado liners must not exceed twelve (12) inches in height and must have a stem diameter not exceeding one (1) inch.

4. Packaging & Labelling Requirements

Associated packaging must be:

- Clearly labelled with identity and origin
- Made from clean, new materials
- Must be free from pests, soil and contaminants
- Sealed to prevent material from becoming contaminated with regulated pests during transit.

5. Inspection at Port of Entry

- All consignments are subject to **quarantine inspection** and sampling **upon arrival** by authorised officers of the **Agricultural Health Inspection Services (AHIS)** to ensure compliance according to ISPM 23.
- Non-compliant consignments may be subjected to further treatment, refusal of entry, confiscation and destruction at the expense of the importer.