



CONDITIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF CUT FLOWERS INTO THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

PLANT HEALTH ORDINANCE 2012 [ORDINANCE 39 OF 2012]

1. The Department of Agriculture hereby advises that under the Plant Health Ordinance 2012, the term 'Plant' includes a seed, germplasm and part of a plant.
2. The Plant Health Ordinance 2012 requires that a Plant Import Permit be obtained from Plant Protection Services of the Department of Agriculture prior to the importation of any 'Plant(s)' into the Turks and Caicos Islands.
3. An application form supplied by Plant Protection Services must be filled out in prescribed form and submitted to the department for processing.
4. A complete application includes the application form, plant list with common and scientific names of the cut flowers, and a phytosanitary certificate from the government of the Exporting Country.
 - Applications will be processed within 48 hours of receipt of completed forms and supporting documentation.
 - An Import Permit may be issued without a Phytosanitary Certificate where the Exporting Country requires Turks and Caicos Islands Department of Agriculture's authorization prior to furnishing a Phytosanitary Certificate to the importer.
5. An application for the importation of Cut Flowers will be deemed incomplete if all of the relevant sections of the form are not filled out. Hence, an Import Permit would not be issued.
6. Under the Plant Health Ordinance, the Chief Plant Protection Officer has prescribed the following conditions to be met before, and on landing:

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- I. That 24 hours notice be given to Plant Protection Services prior to the landing of the consignment of cut flowers.

- II. That the cut flowers are subject to inspection by the Chief Plant Protection Officer or any person authorized by him/her.
- III. The Importer must obtain a copy of the Import Permit, which must be sent to the USDA or CFIA inspectors for the processing of a Phytosanitary Certificate, which must accompany the shipment.
- IV. That the cut flowers must be accompanied with the **original** Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the Competent Authority for agriculture within the Exporting Country. This certificate must indicate that the cut flowers have been inspected and found to be free of plant pests, and must be issued within seven (7) days of export.
The Phytosanitary Certificate must consist of the following information:
 - Official name, stamp/seal of the Competent Authority
 - A unique certificate number
 - Disinfestation and/or Disinfection Treatment, including application date, treatment, chemical, concentration, and any relevant additional information
 - Name and Address of Exporter
 - Name and Address of Importer/Consignee
 - Name and Quantity of cut flowers, including botanical names, where applicable
 - Number and Description of Packages
 - Means of Conveyance
 - Place of origin/place where articles were manufactured
 - Point of Entry in the Turks and Caicos Islands
 - Signature of the Inspector/Authorized Officer in the Exporting Country.
- V. In the case of a trans-shipment where the cut flowers were kept in another country for more than 24 hours or were re-packaged or split up, a re-forwarding Phytosanitary Certificate from the country where the articles were trans-shipped is required.
- VI. Where Phytosanitary Certificates are written in a foreign language, a certified English translation must be attached.
- VII. Upon arrival of the cut flowers at the port of entry, the importer shall furnish the Customs Officer and/or Plant Protection Officer with a copy of an Import Permit issued by the TCIG Plant Protection Services, and the Original Phytosanitary Certificate.
- VIII. All imported regulated articles (plants, fruits, vegetables, cut flowers etc.), as a condition of entry, would be subject to inspection at the port of first arrival as maybe required by the Plant Protection Officer, to detect and eliminate plant pests.

- IX. Subsequent to a cursory inspection of large/containerized consignments at the port; a post-entry inspection would be conducted at the consignee's offloading site.
- X. A shipment of cut flowers may be refused entry or confiscated if the Importer fails to meet the aforementioned conditions, and/or if the shipment is infested with injurious plant pests that pose a threat to Turks and Caicos Islands agriculture resources.
- XI. The aforementioned conditions of importation are implemented to prevent the introduction and dissemination of injurious plant pests into the Turks and Caicos Islands by the importation of regulated articles from certain foreign countries.

