

PLANT PROTECTION TRADE REGULATION INFORMATION

Antigua and Barbuda



The Plant Protection Unit, Department of Agriculture, operates under the legal mandate of the Plant Protection Act No. 18 of 2012. The Unit is therefore responsible for all activities designed to prevent the introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests and to ensure their official control in the event that these pests enter the country. In order to achieve these goals, technical personnel are required to carry out inspections at the ports of entry, ensure regulations are adhered to and issue documents when relevant.

An **IMPORT PERMIT** is issued for the importation of regulated articles, including:

- *All planting material (including seeds, plant cuttings, live plants)*
- *Cut flowers and ornamentals (including floral blooms and greenery)*
- *Unprocessed plant products or other regulated items*
- *Plants, plant products and other regulated items not previously imported or not imported for a period exceeding two years.*
- *Plant growth media (including soil, soil substitutes, mulches, potting mixes)*

Import permits must be obtained from the Plant Protection Unit prior to placing orders for consignments of regulated articles and such permit must be presented to the exporter upon placement of such orders. Since a pest risk assessment may be required, it is advised that importers make application for each import permit at least one week prior to placement of orders for same. Some commodities may require chemical or their treatment prior to shipment and will not be permitted entry without the required pre-export treatments.

Every inbound consignment of regulated and non-regulated items of plant origin must be accompanied by a **PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE** stating, where required by an Import Permit, any necessary treatment – chemical or otherwise. Upon inspection, consignments which are determined by Plant Quarantine Inspectors not to be in compliance with import requirements will be refused entry OR confiscated and/or destroyed at the importer's expense.

Like Antigua and Barbuda, most countries regulate commodities of plants and plant products entering such countries. As such, a Phytosanitary Certificate must also be sought from the Plant Protection Unit for such outbound consignments. The certificates will be issued once the Plant Quarantine Inspector, upon inspection, is satisfied that the consignment meets all known requirements of the country of import.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PLANT PROTECTION UNIT AT (268)562-2776, (268)764-1255, (268)462-6776/7 OR PLANTPROTECTION@ANTIGUA.GOV.AG