



# Importing plant research materials into Australia

November 2023

Do you source plant research goods from overseas? This could include buying goods online, transporting goods in your personal luggage or transferring samples from an overseas laboratory.

We regulate the import of plant material for research purposes as it may pose a risk of introducing foreign pests and diseases that could be harmful to Australia's environment, agriculture and economy.

Find out if you need an import permit, and what the conditions are for importing your goods by checking our Biosecurity Import Conditions (BICON) Database.

## Import permit requirements

Regularly imported research materials that require an import permit include:

- live plants, including seeds, fungi, algae, nursery stock and tissue cultures
- live microorganisms, including model organisms, e.g., *E. coli*
- live laboratory organisms, including all species of *Drosophila*
- infected plant materials (even if it is preserved)
- biological control agents
- diagnostic kits
- genetic material, e.g., DNA, RNA, and Cas9 proteins.

**If an import permit is required, you must obtain it before importing the goods.**

**You cannot apply for an import permit if the goods have already arrived in Australia.**

Other plant related research goods that may not require an import permit but do have strict import conditions include:

- herbarium specimens
- preserved plant materials
- highly refined plant extracts and chemicals.

## More information

Learn more about importing plant research material by scanning the QR code:

Check if you need a permit at <https://bicon.agriculture.gov.au/BiconWeb4.0/>.

Still have some questions about importing your research materials? Contact us via:

**Email** [Imports@aff.gov.au](mailto:Imports@aff.gov.au)

**Phone** 1800 900 090

