

This protocol covers two scenarios:

- Legal and safe import of plant material
- Importing germplasm from seed banks

Whether you are allowed to import plant material into the USA depends on a number of factors including the country of origin, plant species, and any current health alerts. You will also be required to obtain USDA permission **IN ADVANCE**. There are also many species of plants that are covered by CITES that you will need special permission to import.

You can bring in material from anywhere in the USA and from USA germplasm seed banks, providing these are not CITES species for which you will need special permission from the USDA to hold in the collection/for experiments.

You **must** ensure that samples are free of disease or fauna.

Seedbanks: Seeds obtained from seedbanks will very often come with a phytosanitary (plant health) certificate in which case they will not need further paperwork.

Be aware that Material Transfer Agreements may be required to be in place if you obtain your material from a germplasm bank. You will need to contact the Research Office to set this up.

Material should be stored at 4°C to remain viable.

Field-collected plant material: Additional risks apply – contamination by pathogens or fauna, inclusion of soil, greater uncertainty in identification.

This material should therefore be routed via herbaria, which have established protocols and licenses for dealing with such samples. The receiving herbarium may ask for a duplicate set of specimens for its own use. Check with the receiving herbarium whether any specific procedures or paperwork are necessary.