Traveling into the United States From Canada at Land Borders

Last Modified:

Restricted/Prohibited Plants

- Acai (*Euterpe* spp.)
- Achiote (*Bixa* spp.)
- Almond (*Prunus* spp.)
- American cotton palm (*Washingtonia* spp.)
- Anikary palm (*Syagrus* spp.)
- Apple (*Malus* spp.)
- Apricot (*Prunus* spp.)
- Ash (*Fraxinus* spp.)
- Assai palm (*Euterpe* spp.)
- Avellana (*Gevuina* spp.)
- Barberry (*Berberis* spp.)
- Bataua palm (*Oenocarpus* spp.)
- Brazil bramble palm (*Desmoncus* spp.)
- Bristle grass (*Setaria* spp.)
- Cabbage palm (*Euterpe* spp.)
- Cacao (*Herrania* spp., *Theobroma* spp.)
- California fan palm (*Washingtonia* spp.)

- Cherry (*Prunus* spp.)
- Chilean wildnut (*Gevuina* spp.)
- Cricketvine (*Arrabidaea*, *Fredericia* spp.)
- Crinkle bush (*Lomatia* spp.)
- Fan palm (*Mauritia* spp.)
- Fig (*Ficus* spp.)
- Figi sago palm (*Metroxylon* spp.)
- Flowering quince (*Chaenomeles* spp.)
- Foxtail grass (*Setaria* spp.)
- Foxtail millet (*Setaria* spp.)
- Giant redwood (*Sequoiandendron* spp.)

- Giriba palm (*Syagrus* spp.)
- Golden larch (*Pseudolarix* spp.)
- Grape (*Vitis* spp.)
- Grapevine (*Vitis* spp.)
- Green botan (*Sabal* spp.)
- Hazelnut (*Gevuina* spp.)
- Hesper palm (*Brahea* spp.)
- Hops (*Humulus* spp.)
- Horse chestnut (*Aesculus* spp.)
- Ite palm (*Mauritia* spp.)
- Japanese quince (*Chaenomeles* spp.)
- Jelly palm (*Butia* spp.)
- Jicara (*Euterpe* spp.)
- Kiwi (*Actinidia* spp.)
- Larch (*Larix* spp.)
- Licuri palm (*Syagrus* spp.)
- Lipstick tree (*Bixa* spp.)
- Longleaf Lomatia (*Lomatia* spp.)

- Mango (*Mangifera* spp.)
- Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia* spp.)
- Millet (*Setaria* spp.)
- Monkey cacao (*Herrania* spp.)
- Nectarine (*Prunus* spp.)
- Okra (*Abelmoschus* spp.)
- Ouricury palm (*Syagrus* spp.)
- Palm (*Acrocomia* spp., *Astrocaryum* spp., *Attalea* spp., *Bactris* spp., *Brahea* spp., *Butia* spp., *Calamus* spp., *Desmoncus* spp., *Euterpe* spp., *Manicaria* spp., *Metroxylon* spp., *Oenocarpus* spp., *Oncosperma* spp., *Roystonea* spp., *Sabal* spp., *Syagrus* spp., *Washingtonia* spp.)

- Palma real (*Manicaria* spp.)
- Parsley fern (*Lomatia* spp.)
- Peach (*Prunus* spp.)
- Peanut (*Arachis* spp.)
- Pear (*Pyrus* spp.)
- Pindo palm (*Butia* spp.)
- Pine (*Pinus* spp.)
- Pinot (*Euterpe* spp.)
- Plum (*Prunu*s spp.)
- Puerto Rico hat palm (*Sabal* spp.)
- Puerto Rico palmetto (*Sabal* spp.)
- Queen palm (*Syagrus* spp.)
- Quince (*Chaenomeles* spp., *Cydonia*)
- Raspberry (*Rubus* spp.)
- Rattan cane (*Butia* spp.)
- River Lomatia (*Lomatia* spp.)
- Royal palm (*Roystonea* spp.)
- Sago palm (*Metroxylon* spp.)
- Sequoia (*Sequoiandendron* spp.)
- Sikkim larch (*Larix* spp.)
- Spiny palm (*Bactris* spp.)
- Strawberry (*Fraxinus* spp.)
- Thorny palm (*Oncosperma* spp.)
- Tree of life (*Mauritia* spp.)
- Trinidad palm (*Sabal* spp.)

- Troolie palm (*Manicaria* spp.)
- Wildnut (*Gevuina* spp.)
- Winter’s bark (*Drimys* spp.)

Approved Growing Media

- Baked expanded clay pellets
- Coal cinder
- Coir
- Commercial potting soil or soil taken from any Canadian Province except from an area of Canada regulated for potato cyst nematodes. Contact the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for more information.

- Cork
- Glass wool
- Organic and inorganic fibers
- Peat
- Perlite
- Phenol formaldehyde
- Plastic particles
- Polyethylene
- Polymer stabilized starch

- Polystyrene
- Polyurethane
- Rock wool
- Stockosorb® superabsorbent polymer
- Vermiculite
- Volcanic rock
- Zeolite
- Or any combination of the media listed here

Seeds With Additional Requirements

- Broomcorn (*Sorghum* spp.)
- Canegrass (*Chionachne* spp.)
- Caracan millet (*Eleusine* spp.)
- Coix (*Coix* spp.)
- Corn (*Euchlaena* spp., *Zea* spp.)
- Cotton or cottontree (*Gossypium* spp.)
- Finger millet (*Eleusine* spp.)
- Grass (*Pennisetum* spp., *Polytoca* spp.)
- Grass (*Cenchrus* spp.)
- Job’s tears (*Coix* spp.)

- Kenaf (*Hibiscus* spp.)
- Millet (*Echinochloa* spp., *Eleusine* spp., *Panicum* spp.)
- Miscanthus (*Miscanthus* spp.)
- Okra (*Abelmoschus* spp.)
- Potato (True seed of *Solanum tuberosum*)
- Rivergrass (*Chionachne* spp.)
- Rose mallow (*Hibiscus* spp.)
- Sorghum (*Sorghum* spp.)
- Zebra grass (*Miscanthus* spp.)

Prohibited Plant Materials

- Alder (*Alnus* spp.)
- Almond (*Prunus* spp.)
- Apple (*Malus* spp.)
- Apple (*Malus* spp.)
- Apricot (*Prunus* spp.)
- Apricot (*Prunus* spp.)
- Cherry (*Prunus* spp.)
- Cherry laurel (*Prunus* spp.)

- Chestnut (*Castanea* spp.)
- Cotton (*Gossypium* spp.)
- Crabapple (*Malus* spp.)
- English laurel (*Prunus* spp.)

- English laurel (*Prunus* spp.)
- Flowering quince (*Chaenomeles* spp.)
- Grape (*Vitis* spp.)
- Nectarine (*Prunus* spp.)
- Peach (*Prunus* spp.)
- Pear (*Pyrus* spp.)
- Prune (*Prunus* spp.)
- Quince (*Cydonia* spp.)
- Sugarcane (*Saccharum* spp.)
- Witchweed (*Striga* spp.)

Prohibited Fruits and Vegetables

Allium (includes chives, garlic, garlic chives, green onion/Welsh onion, green bunching onions, leeks, onion, ramps, scallions, and shallots): Fresh allium bulbs are prohibited unless accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate issued by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) containing an additional declaration stating the shipment is free of *Acrolepiopsis assectella*. Thoroughly dried allium bulbs (papery skin) may enter without such documentation.

Arrowhead tuber: Arrowhead tubers are prohibited unless the traveler obtains a PPQ Form 526, Noxious Weed Permit from APHIS.

Avocados

Bananas

Cherries: Fresh cherries grown in Ontario Province are **prohibited**. Fresh cherries commercially grown in a Canadian Province other than Ontario may enter if accompanied by documentation demonstrating the province of origin.

Fresh chestnuts

Citrus

Coconut (if liquid or husk is present)

Corn on the cob: Fresh corn grown in any Canadian province (except British Columbia) is prohibited if destined for Arkansas, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, or Utah. Fresh corn commercially harvested in British Columbia with proof of origin may enter any U.S. State without restriction.

Edible flowers: Only the following edible flowers from Canada can enter—*Calendula* spp. (pot marigold), *Tagetes* spp. (marigold), *Tropaeolum* spp. (nasturtium), and *Viola* spp. (johnny-jump-ups, pansies, and violets). Edible flowers not completely free of stems and leaves will be prohibited entry.

European blackberries (*Rubus fruticosus)*

Guava

Okra

Papaya

Fresh peanuts (commercially packaged peanuts [raw, in shell, or roasted] labeled as grown in Canada or the United Sates are allowed)

Peppers

Pineapple

Potatoes (50 pounds or less of commercially packaged potatoes labeled as grown either in Canada or the United States are allowed)

Tomatoes

Tropical fruits and vegetables

Water spinach (fresh leaf, fresh green stem): Fresh perishable water spinach is prohibited unless the traveler first obtains a PPQ Form 526, Noxious Weed Permit from APHIS.

The United States restricts or prohibits the entry of many agricultural products, which can carry foreign pests and diseases that harm American agriculture and our environment. A major pest or disease outbreak could mean higher grocery bills, shortages of certain foods, and devastating losses for farmers and ranchers.

Help us keep American agriculture healthy by following the guidance on this page about products you may want to bring into the United States from Canada.

Declare Food, Plants, and Other Agricultural Items

Travelers entering the United States must declare all agricultural and wildlife products to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials. You must also tell them if you visited a farm or were in contact with animals before traveling to the United States.

U.S. agricultural inspectors will examine your items to be sure they meet entry requirements and do not harbor harmful foreign pests or diseases. U.S. inspectors have the authority to make a final determination about whether your products can enter the country. We recommend that you keep receipts and original packaging of agricultural products as proof of their country of origin.

As long as you declare all the agricultural products you are bringing with you, you will not face any penalties—even if an inspector determines that these products cannot enter the country.

The guidance below is intended only for travelers crossing at Canadian land borders; it does not pertain to commercial shippers. Air travelers from Canada should refer instead to the guidance for international travelers at Traveling From Another Country.

Meat, Poultry, Dairy, Eggs, Pet Food, and Animal Trophies

Use the Veterinary Services (VS) Permitting Assistant to understand import requirements for animal products. This self-guided tool has the most updated and comprehensive information, based on the type of materials you want to bring in and the intended use.

Please note that commodities intended for "personal use" mean those in passenger baggage or passenger vehicles. Commodities sent by mail are regulated as "commercial" use.

Expand All

Meat

Travelers may bring the following types of fresh (chilled, frozen), cooked, cured, or dried meats from Canada: beef, bison, veal, sheep (lamb, mutton), goat, swine, and camelid. Travelers may also bring personal-use amounts of foods containing beef, veal, or bison. ***There is a limit of 50 pounds of meat per traveler.***

Travelers may also bring personal-use amounts of cervid meat (deer, elk, moose, caribou), including hunter-harvested cervid meat, provided they present the U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer with evidence that the product is cervid meat, such as a valid hunting license, commercially prepared labels found on unopened packages, or other official documents. ***Hunter-harvested meat is not subject to the 50-pound limit, but allowable amounts are determined based on the hunting license.***

Poultry

Before you travel, be sure to check for any temporary restrictions. APHIS may implement temporary restrictions when certain avian diseases are present in North America.

In the absence of temporary restrictions, travelers may bring back personal-use amounts of poultry meat from Canada.

There is a limit of 50 pounds of meat per traveler. Hunter-harvested meat is not subject to the 50-pound limit, but allowable amounts are determined based on the hunting license.

Dairy Products

Travelers may bring back milk and other dairy products from Canada with proof of Canadian origin, such as a package label, written documentation, proof of travel (passport or travel itinerary), origin of flight, sales receipt, or a certificate.

Eggs or Egg Products

Before you travel, be sure to check for any temporary restrictions. APHIS may implement temporary restrictions when certain avian diseases are present in North America.

In the absence of temporary restrictions, travelers may bring back personal-use amounts of eggs or egg products from Canada.

Pet Food, Chews, and Treats

Travelers may bring back certain pet food, chews, and treats from Canada under the following conditions:

- The items must be in unopened retail packaging.
- If the items are raw (not shelf-stable without refrigeration), dehydrated, freeze-dried, or sun-dried, then the items must be labeled as a product of Canada or the U.S.
- Before you travel, be sure to check for any temporary restrictions. APHIS may implement temporary restrictions when certain livestock or poultry diseases are present in North America.

If you are traveling back from Canada by land, there is a limit of 50 lb per vehicle.
If you are traveling back from Canada by air, the limit is 20 lb per family.

Animal Trophies

Trophies from Canada may enter with documentation that proves country of origin, including a bill of lading; certificate of origin; invoice; document on official letterhead prepared by the manufacturer, seller, outfitter, Provincial government, Tribal Nation, or shipper; or an official certificate issued by a veterinarian representing the Canadian national government certifying the country of origin. The trophies must be fully finished or receive special processing upon entry.

Learn More About Trophies and Approved Establishments

Plants, Seeds, Cut Flowers, and Greenery

Expand All

Plants

You may bring live plants produced in Canada to the United States if they meet the following conditions:

- You have a phytosanitary certificate from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
- You have an import permit for plants that are designated as restricted or prohibited. These plants may potentially pose a threat to the health of U.S. agriculture.
- Your plants are bare rooted or in an approved growing medium.
- Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists at the U.S. port of entry determine that the plants are free of pests and diseases and meet all entry requirements.

Plants that are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) may require special documentation. Call USDA's Plant Import Information Line at 877-770-5990 (toll free) or email us at plantproducts.permits@usda.gov for more information about bringing plants into the United States, and about importing plants that are not produced in Canada.

Seeds

Because all imports of seeds for planting that are produced in Canada require some form of documentation, we strongly suggest that you buy your seeds in the United States. If you want to transport seeds from Canada into the United States, you will need to present either a phytosanitary certificate from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency or a Small Lots of Seeds permit issued by APHIS.

Some seeds require other kinds of permits or documentation. Call USDA's Plant Import Information Line at 877-770-5990 (toll free) or email us at plantproducts.permits@usda.gov for more information about bringing seeds into the United States, and about importing seeds that are not produced in Canada.

Fresh Cut Flowers

USDA defines cut flowers as the fresh, cut portion of a plant that is imported for decoration or ornamentation. Common additions to cut flower bouquets such as most ferns, baby's breath, and many ornamental grasses produced in Canada are generally admissible.

Generally, you can bring cut flowers from Canada into the United States if they meet the following conditions:

- Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists at the U.S. port of entry determine that the flowers are free of pests and diseases and meet all entry requirements. Some flowers that are not produced in Canada may have to meet special requirements.
- The flowers are not mixed with prohibited plant materials. These materials require permits that are granted only under extremely limited circumstances.

To determine the entry status of other plant materials, and for more information about entry or permit requirements, call USDA's Plant Import Information Line at 877-770-5990 (toll free) or email us at plantproducts.permits@usda.gov.

Greenery

Due to the risk of transporting forest pests from Canada to the United States, travelers cannot bring cut conifer trees, such as Christmas trees (white pine, Scotch pine, Scots pine, fir, spruce, hemlock, and Douglas fir) across the border. Requirements for boughs, wreaths, or garlands can vary greatly, depending on the Canadian province of origin. U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists at the U.S. port of entry will determine whether the greenery or plant material is free of pests and diseases and meets all entry requirements.

Call USDA's Plant Import Information Line at 877-770-5990 (toll free) or email us at plantproducts.permits@usda.gov for more information about entry status or permit requirements.

Fruits and Vegetables

Expand All

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

Travelers crossing a land border into the United States may bring, for personal consumption, some (but not all) fresh fruits and vegetables that were grown on a commercial orchard or farm in Canada, if all the conditions below are met and confirmed by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists at the border:

- Produce is free of soil, pests, and diseases.
- Produce variety is not listed as prohibited.
- Traveler has sufficient documentation to clearly demonstrate that the item(s) was grown in Canada and not just sold there. Sufficient documentation includes sales receipts and individual stickers on produce or fruit and vegetable bags commercially labeled as “Produce of Canada”. For produce purchased at a commercial pick-your-own farm, you must have a dated receipt showing the farm’s name and address.
- Traveler is entering the United States during the Canadian growing season (May 1–October 31) if produce is field grown. Field-grown produce presented for inspection before or after that date range may be refused entry. However, fresh cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, squash, and strawberries commercially labeled as greenhouse grown in Canada may enter the United States year-round. Sea buckthorn berries may also enter year-round.

Travelers may not bring U.S.-grown produce they previously took into Canada back across the border unless the items are whole and still in their original packaging. Any item listed as prohibited—such as citrus, tomatoes, or peppers—even if U.S.-grown, may not re-enter the United States.

Homegrown

Homegrown or backyard-grown fruits and vegetables (as well as any produce lacking a commercial label) grown in Canada are, in general, **prohibited entry into the United States**, because in almost all cases there is no way to prove that the produce was actually grown and harvested in Canada.

***Exception*:** Homegrown fruits/vegetables of nonprohibited fruits and vegetables may be allowed entry if the gardener arranges and pays for an onsite inspection of their garden or orchard by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). CFIA may then issue the travelling gardener a phytosanitary certificate certifying that the produce was grown and harvested in Canada. For more information, contact the

Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Dried

Most fruits and vegetables grown in Canada that were **commercially dried** are allowed entry into the United States. All such products must be declared and presented at entry, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists will make the final determination as to what products may enter.

Frozen

Travelers may bring certain **commercially** packaged frozen fruits and vegetables grown in Canada if the product does not contain any meat products and is frozen solid (that is, 20 degrees Fahrenheit or -6.6 degrees Celsius) when presented for entry at the border. However, most produce varieties listed above as prohibited when fresh (allium, citrus, peppers, tomatoes, etc.) are also prohibited when frozen. All such products must be declared and presented at entry, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists will make the final determination as to what products may enter.

Canned

Travelers may bring commercially canned fruits and vegetables (not containing any meat products) into the United States. All such products must be declared and presented at entry, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists will make the final determination as to what products may enter.

Contact us if you have questions or would like more information about bringing items from Canada into the United States.

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