

5

Export Program
Manual

Special Procedures

Special Programs • U. S. – Canadian Greenhouse Certification Program

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Introduction

These special procedures provide the requirements of the U.S. and Canadian Greenhouse Certification Program (referred to throughout this appendix as “the Program”).

PPQ and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU provides a modified export certification program for the expeditious movement of commercial shipments consisting of eligible low-risk decorative plants between the two countries.

The Program allows for growers to enter into Compliance Agreements (see [Suggested Compliance Agreement Elements](#) on page 5-5-9) with their respective State plant regulatory agencies. The Compliance Agreements establish a cyclical inspection process for growers to follow, which replaces the need to inspect and certify individual shipments. Growers participating in the Program **must** implement measures to ensure that eligible plants are grown, stored, packed, and shipped free from regulated pests¹ of concern to Canada.

1 Each importing country identifies its own regulated pests and are listed as prohibited pests in the importing country's plant quarantine import requirements. They are pests that are of potential economic importance to the area endangered, and are **not** present, or present but **not** widely distributed and being officially controlled.

PPQ Form 577s are replaced with label certificates bearing a registration number assigned by the State plant regulatory agency. The label certificates are affixed to one of the shipping documents (bill of lading, air waybill, etc.). Label certificates and other aspects of the Program satisfy the phytosanitary import requirements of Canada. (See [Export Certification Label](#) on page 5-5-12.)

Eligible Plants

Eligible plants are those commonly known and recognized as indoor foliage and flowering plants and those categorized as bedding plants intended for either indoor or outdoor planting.

The majority of eligible plants fall into the following categories:

- ◆ Bedding plants
- ◆ Cacti
- ◆ Flowering plants
- ◆ Foliage plants
- ◆ Orchids
- ◆ Potted bulb plants
- ◆ Succulents

Trade in protected plant species is subject to CITES and ESA requirements. See [Special Programs • Protected Commodities](#) on page 5-8-1 for instructions on handling protected plants.

Excluded Plants

The following plants **cannot** be shipped to Canada under the Program:

- ◆ *Abies* spp.
- ◆ *Acer* spp.
- ◆ *Aesculus* spp.
- ◆ *Ajania* spp.
- ◆ *Allium* spp.
- ◆ *Arbutus* spp.
- ◆ *Artctostaphylos* spp.
- ◆ *Berberis* spp.
- ◆ *Capsicum* spp.

- ◆ *Castanea* spp.
- ◆ *Chaenomeles* spp.
- ◆ *Chrysanthemum* spp. (**except** finished pot mums)
- ◆ *Corylus* spp.
- ◆ *Crataegus* spp.
- ◆ *Cydonia* spp.
- ◆ *Dendranthema* spp. (**except** finished pot mums)
- ◆ *Elodea densa*
- ◆ *Gaylussacia* spp.
- ◆ *Heteromeles* spp.
- ◆ *Hydrilla verticillata*
- ◆ *Juniperus* spp.
- ◆ *Larix* spp.
- ◆ *Leucanthemella* spp.
- ◆ *Lithocarpus* spp.
- ◆ *Lonicera* spp.
- ◆ *Lycopersicon* spp.
- ◆ *Mahoberberis* spp.
- ◆ *Mahonia* spp.
- ◆ *Malus* spp.
- ◆ *Myriophyllum* spp.
- ◆ *Nicotiana tabacum*
- ◆ *Nipponanthemum* spp.
- ◆ *Picea* spp.
- ◆ *Pinus* spp.
- ◆ *Pittosporum* spp.
- ◆ *Prunus* spp.
- ◆ *Pseudotsuga* spp.
- ◆ *Pyrus* spp.
- ◆ *Quercus* spp.
- ◆ *Rhamnus* spp.
- ◆ *Rhododendron* spp.
- ◆ *Rhus* spp.

- ◆ *Rubus* spp.
- ◆ *Sequoia* spp.
- ◆ *Solanum* spp.
- ◆ *Trapa* spp.
- ◆ *Ttientalis* spp.
- ◆ *Ulmus* spp.
- ◆ *Vaccinium* spp.
- ◆ *Viburnum* spp.
- ◆ *Vitis* spp.
- ◆ *Zelkova* spp.

Propagative Origin

All plants shipped to Canada under the Program **must** originate in the U.S.

Propagative plant material originating from offshore sources shall remain segregated at the establishment until the plants complete a cycle of vegetative growth.

Export Standards

Nursery establishments **must** meet the following export standards in order to participate in the Program:

1. If the nursery establishment is located in Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*)-infested areas, it will be governed by the provisions of the Canada-U.S. Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan.



The Canada-U.S. Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan is in Canada's export summary under *General Information*.

2. Cultural and/or pest control practices **must** be adequate to prevent any possible infestation with the following plant pests of quarantine significance to Canada:
 - A. Apple maggot (*Rhagoletis pomonella*)
 - B. Blueberry maggot (*Rhagoletis mendax*)
 - C. Brown garden snail (*Helix aspersa*)

- D. Columbia root-knot nematode (*Meloidogyne chitwoodi*)
- E. Gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*)
- F. Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*)
- G. Soybean cyst nematode (*Heterodera glycines*)
- H. Other plant pests of quarantine concern to Canada

See also Canada's export summary for pest mitigation measures applicable to the State of origin.

3. **Must** be considered practically free² from other injurious plant pests.
4. Maintain a zero tolerance for regulated pests³ in the greenhouses and/or screenhouses.
5. If a nursery establishment is found in noncompliance with the sanitation criteria, then the nursery establishment will be removed from the Program and its Compliance Agreement will be canceled.
6. Nursery establishments sanctioned for noncompliance will **not** be eligible for reinstatement in the Program until subsequent official inspections indicate the pest problems were eliminated.

Responsibilities

See the following responsibilities of those entities participating in the Program:

- ◆ *Brokers*
- ◆ *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*
- ◆ *Nursery Establishments*
- ◆ *PPQ*
- ◆ *State Plant Regulatory Agency*

Nursery Establishments

Responsibilities of a nursery establishment are as follows:

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2. Practically free means **not** to exceed a 2% infestation level of non regulated pests unless otherwise stated by Canada. The practically free condition represents a judgment that the pests are **not** in excess of the amount expected to result from, and be consistent with, good culturing and handling practices used in producing and marketing the commodity.
 3. Each importing country identifies its regulated pests listed as prohibited in the importing country's plant quarantine import requirements (export summary). Regulated pests are of potential economic importance to the area endangered, and are **not** present, or present but **not** widely distributed are being officially controlled.

1. To be under a compliance agreement with their applicable State plant regulatory agency and **must** use State-approved practices for nursery sanitation and pest control. Compliant nursery establishments will be denoted as designated facilities.
2. To receive regular export inspections by the State plant regulatory agency. The frequency of inspections will be specified in a Compliance Agreement.
3. To have a competent staff capable of carrying out the requirements of the Program.
 - A. At least one staff member **must** have a thorough understanding of the Program and **must** be able to demonstrate the capability to carry out the requirements of the Program and shall be designated as the Facility Contact Person.
 - B. All other staff members should be aware of the export standards and trained, if deemed necessary, to carry out certain functions of the Program.
4. To have a pest management program in effect that will assure consistent compliance with the export standards of this Program.
 - A. The pest management program may be one that is established and recommended by the State plant regulatory agency or by industry, or may be specifically developed by the nursery establishment.
 - B. Program procedures **must** be documented for review by the State plant regulatory agency.
5. To hold new plant material brought into the greenhouse for inspection before moving the material into the main production area. If pests are found, immediately eradicate.
6. To have qualified personnel inspect the plant material at a frequency specified in the pest management program.
 - A. If pests are detected, control measures **must** be taken to ensure compliance with the export standards.
 - B. When preparing shipments for export, examine the plants and shipping areas to prevent pest contamination and to ensure the export standards are met.
 - C. When requested by the State plant regulatory agency, PPQ, or CFIA, make available inspection reports that include the inspection date, the names of plants inspected, the inspection results, and any corrective actions.
7. To use other pest detection methods to obtain early warnings of pest infestations (e.g., sticky traps, pheromone traps), because eradication may be more easily achieved if infestations are detected when the pest population is small or in juvenile stages.

Immediately notify the State plant regulatory agency of any uncommon pest damage or symptoms or when regulated pests are detected or suspected.

8. To maintain records and include the origin for all nursery-grown plants exported under the Program.
 - A. Records **must** list the names of all exported plants and the serial numbers of export certification labels used.
 - B. Records **must** be maintained for at least 1 year and **must** be made available when requested by the State plant regulatory agency, PPQ, or Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
9. To have an approved export certification label bearing the grower's assigned registration number, and be affixed to one of the shipping documents (bill of lading, air waybill, etc.) for shipments of plant material destined to Canada (see [Export Certification Label](#) on page 5-5-12).

Brokers

Responsibilities of brokers and nursery establishments who ship plants produced in other designated facilities as follows:

1. To record the sources of the plants including the source identification number.
2. To submit a trace-back plan to the State plant regulatory agency for approval, prior to exportation.
3. To have designated facilities apply an export certification label to the invoice issued to the broker or nursery establishment shipping the product.
4. When plants sourced from nondesignated facilities are shipped with an export certification label, to prepare an inspection report by the State plant regulatory agency and to maintain it for at least 1 year from the shipping date.

State Plant Regulatory Agency

Responsibilities of the State plant regulatory agency are as follows.

1. To conduct the initial inspection of a nursery establishment that has applied to participate in the Program, to ensure the nursery can meet the Program requirements.
2. To conduct export inspections of participating nursery establishments at the frequency specified in their Compliance Agreement.
 - A. If a regulated pest is found during an inspection, the certification status of the nursery will be immediately revoked.

- B.** The identifying mark affixed to an export certification label is the property of the State plant regulatory agency. Therefore, if a nursery's certification is revoked, the nursery **must** surrender export certification labels to the State plant regulatory agency.
 - C.** After pest eradication, the facility operator **must** notify the Agency and arrange for reinspection. This follow-up inspection is required to verify pest eradication from the facility.
 - D.** If an inspection reveals a significant population of a nonregulated pest, the certification status of the nursery establishment will be revoked until a follow-up inspection confirms that the pest problem has been controlled. Export certification labels may **not** be used until certification is reinstated. While under suspension, a nursery establishment may obtain PPQ Form 577s if the subject nonregulated pest has been eradicated from the plant material destined for export.
 - E.** If an inspection reveals a population of nonregulated pests at a low and commonly accepted level, record the pest findings and advise the nursery establishment operator to take immediate control measures. Export certification labels may be used for plants meeting the export standards at the time of shipment. However, if the nursery establishment **cannot** maintain satisfactory export controls, the nursery establishment will lose its designated status and will become ineligible for the Program.
- 3.** To conduct audit inspections to ensure the nursery establishment is exporting **only** eligible plants and is following approved Program procedures.
 - 4.** To provide a list of designated nursery establishments to the responsible PPQ State Plant Health Director (SPHD). The list should include, for each nursery establishment, its name, address, and designated number.
 - 5.** To notify the responsible PPQ SPHD of any revocations along with the identification number of the affected nursery establishment.
 - 6.** Upon request, to provide PPQ with pertinent information regarding Program operations in its respective State. Pertinent information includes the following and would be provided to CFIA by PPQ as necessary:
 - A.** Export statistics
 - B.** Names of participating nursery establishments and their assigned registration number

- C. Violations of Program conditions and resultant sanctions, if any

PPQ

Responsibilities of PPQ are as follows.

1. To monitor Program operation throughout the U.S.
2. To affect necessary changes to maintain the viability and integrity of the Program.
3. To send via SPHDs the information on participating nursery establishments and revocations to Export Services (ES).
4. To send via ES a list of participating nurseries to Canada and notify the CFIA of revocations.

Canadian Food Inspection Agency

The CFIA has the privilege of conducting an on-site inspection of any participating nursery establishment. Therefore, the CFIA is responsible for providing advance notice to PPQ of its intention to conduct an on-site inspection.

Suggested Compliance Agreement Elements

The suggested elements of compliance agreements established under the Program are as follows (see [Figure 5-5-1 on page-5-5-11](#) for an example of a Compliance Agreement for the export of greenhouse-grown decorative plants to Canada):

1. Attach to the compliance agreement a list of excluded plants so the participating nursery establishment is aware of the plants that are **not** to be exported to Canada under the Program.
2. Plants **must** be grown in a growing area (greenhouse and/or screenhouse) approved by the State plant regulatory agency.
3. The nursery establishment **must** use sanitation measures and cultural and pest control practices approved by the State plant regulatory agency. Such practices **must** be designed to prevent the introduction and establishment of any pest of quarantine concern to Canada.
4. If the nursery establishment is located in a Japanese beetle infested area, the establishment will be governed by the provisions of the Canada-U.S. Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan.
5. The State plant regulatory agency and/or PPQ will conduct export inspections of participating nursery establishments at least once per month. A reduction in this frequency may be considered when a record of standards compliance is

established. Timing of inspections should be influenced by the type of plant material being grown in greenhouses and/or screenhouses at the nursery establishment and the potential for pest infestations.

- 6.** The State plant regulatory agency and/or PPQ will conduct audit inspections to ensure **only** approved plants are being exported and approved program procedures are being followed.
- 7.** An export certification label bearing the nursery's assigned registration number **must** be affixed to one of the shipping documents (bill of lading, air waybill, etc.) in a manner to be readily visible to an inspector at the Canadian point of entry.
- 8.** Records of plant inventories, including origin of plants and date of receipt of any nursery-grown plant shipped under the Program, are to be maintained at the nursery premises for at least 1 year after shipment. Upon request, these records are to be made available to the State plant regulatory agency and CFIA.
- 9.** The Compliance Agreement should include a notation to the effect that the Plant Protection Division, CFIA has the right, following advance notification, to conduct an on-site inspection of any establishment in the U.S. that is participating in the Program.
- 10.** Violation of any stipulation of the Compliance Agreement will be grounds for Agreement termination. If a violation occurs, the participating nursery establishment will be immediately suspended for a period agreed to by PPQ and CFIA.
- 11.** Each Compliance Agreement is to be countersigned by a PPQ SPHD or authorized representative.

FLORIDA
COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT
EXPORT OF GREENHOUSE-GROWN DECORATIVE PLANTS TO CANADA

I/We agree that **no** liability shall be attached to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), Division of Plant Industry (DPI), or any of their employees in the event of injury to property or personnel. I/We further agree to carry out sanitary measures which may be required by the DPI and to carry out and abide by the following stipulations:

1. This agreement will be evaluated on a quarterly basis. If the time expended on an inspection of the nursery is greater than what would be incurred on inspections of individual shipments during that quarter, this agreement will be revoked.
2. This agreement shall pertain **only** to shipments of those plants commonly known and recognized as house plants and are grown solely for indoor decorative purposes. The majority of eligible plant types fall into the following categories:
 - ◆ bedding plants
 - ◆ cacti
 - ◆ flowering plants
 - ◆ foliage plants
 - ◆ orchids
 - ◆ potted bulb plants
 - ◆ succulents
3. No plants on the excluded list (see attached list) are to be shipped to Canada under this program.
4. Eligible decorative plants purchased from other Florida nurseries intended for shipment to Canada under this agreement **must** originate from nurseries under compliance (U.S./Canada Greenhouse Certification Program) or be inspected and certified by an authorized representative of DPI at the time of shipment.
5. Plant material originating from offshore sources shall remain segregated at this establishment until such time as the plants have completed a significant cycle of vegetative growth.
6. Certification of plant material regulated under the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) **must** be processed through designated USDA-PPQ ports. Authorized Florida CITES ports are:

Miami Inspection Station	Orlando Inspection Station
USDA-APHIS-PPQ	USDA-APHIS-PPQ
P.O. Box 592136	9317 Tradeport Drive
Miami, Florida 33159	Orlando, Florida 32827
Tel: (305) 525-2825	Tel: (407) 648-6856
7. This nursery establishment **must** use approved nursery sanitation and pest control practices, receive quarterly inspections by an authorized representative of DPI and the cost of such inspections may be borne by this establishment.
8. Plants **must** be grown in a DPI approved growing area.
9. Plants **must** be grown in a manner to prevent any possible infestation with soybean cyst nematodes, *Heterodera glycines*.
10. A sticker or label bearing an assigned grower's number and stamp certification (which will serve as the required certificate of inspection) **must** be affixed to the shipping documents (bill of lading, air waybill, etc.) accompanying each shipment so as to be readily visible to an inspector at the Canadian port of entry.

FIGURE 5-5-1: Example of Compliance Agreement for the Export of Greenhouse Grown Decorative Plants to Canada

11. Records of plant inventories, including origin of plants, of any nursery grown plant shipped under this program are to be maintained at the nursery premises for at least 1 year after shipment. These records are to be made available on request to DPI and the Plant Protection Division (PPD), CFIA.
12. Representatives of DPI and/or PPQ will conduct audit inspections to ensure that **only** approved plants are being exported and that approved program procedures are being followed. Audit inspections will be conducted during normal business hours.
13. PPD, CFIA has the right, following advance notification, to conduct an on-site inspection of the establishment covered under this Compliance Agreement.
14. Violation of any stipulation of this agreement is grounds for suspension and may result in prosecution as provided by Sections 581.141 and 581.211 Florida Statutes.

Items **not** eligible for export under this cooperative program **must** be inspected and certified by DPI on a shipment-by-shipment basis using the standard State of Florida phytosanitary certificate.

I, _____, the owner/person in possession, care or control of the above named establishment have read and understand all of the conditions and obligations stated herein by which I may export specific species of foliage plants, in accordance with the Greenhouse Inspection Program which governs the movement of greenhouse plants between the United States and Canada.

SIGNATURE TITLE DATE

INSPECTOR DATE
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & CONSUMER SERVICES

WITNESSED BY:

Inspector
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
United States Department of Agriculture

FIGURE 5-5-1: Example of Compliance Agreement for the Export of Greenhouse Grown Decorative Plants to Canada

Export Certification Label

Export certification labels serve as PPQ Form 577s for eligible commodities exported to Canada from nursery establishments participating in the Program (see [Figure 5-5-2 on page-5-5-13](#) for an example of an export certification label). Each nursery establishment is assigned an identification number. The identification number, as well as a label serial number, appears on each export certification label issued to the nursery establishment. These numbers make each export certificate label unique. In addition, export certification labels bear the following statement:

This shipment of greenhouse-grown plants meets the import requirements of Canada and is believed to be free from injurious plant pests.

The participating nursery establishment is responsible for paying all costs associated with obtaining export certification labels, although the labels remain the property of the State plant regulatory agency. The export certification labels **must** meet the specifications as shown in [Figure 5-5-2](#). The State plant regulatory agency authorizes the printing of the export certification labels and provides the identification number and serial number to be used. In this example, the nursery's identification number is prefaced by the two-letter State abbreviation; "FL" standing for Florida. The serial numbers are to be used **only** once.

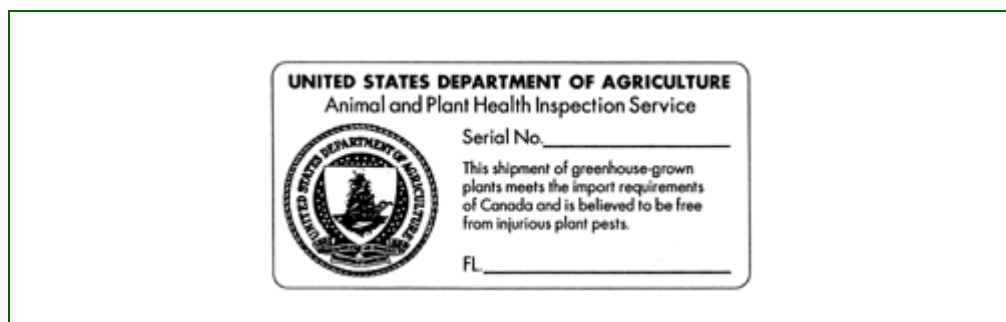


FIGURE 5-5-2: Example of PPQ Export Certification Label

Each export certification label **must** be affixed to an air waybill, bill of lading, or other shipping document that accompanies each shipment.

Participating nursery establishments **must** exercise strict control over export certification label use. Records **must** be kept of label serial numbers that are in stock and that have been used. Under **no** circumstances should export certification labels be given to anyone **other than** a person authorized by and employed by the participating nursery establishment. Failure to do so results in immediate suspension from the Program.

All plants shipped under the Program **must** have been propagated and produced in a participating nursery establishment or inspected by the State plant regulatory agency. If plants sourced from a nondesignated facility are mixed with plants from a designated facility, the plants **must** be inspected by the State plant regulatory agency. The participating nursery establishment **must** keep a copy of the State inspection report with its documentation. If the entire shipment contains plants that were from a nondesignated facility, a normal inspection is required and would be certified with a PPQ Form 577.

