

GEORGIA
SUMMARY OF PLANT PROTECTION REGULATIONS
Updated July 2021

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www.agr.georgia.gov/plant-protection.aspx

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This information, as provided, is for informational purposes only and should not be interpreted as complete nor should it be considered legally binding. Georgia Department of Agriculture rules may be accessed through the Georgia Secretary of State's website at <http://rules.sos.state.ga.us/GAC/40-4>.

NURSERY STOCK DEFINITION:

Live Plant: Any whole or propagative part of any member of the Plant Kingdom, capable of or intended for propagation or growth. It does not include true seeds, cut flowers, or decorative cut foliage.

GENERAL SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS:

Plant material must be apparently free from plant pests and not in poor physical condition as defined in Georgia’s Live Plant Regulations. All Live Plants must be accompanied by a valid inspection Certificate from the state of origin and a bill of lading or invoice describing the shipment and licensed destination. Plant material must originate from a person or business that has been duly licensed in the state of origin by the plant regulatory officials of that state.

The Commissioner of Agriculture or his agent may order any live plants to be quarantined and/or destroyed at cost to the owner if the plants are believed to be or if they exhibit signs or symptoms of infestation or infection with a plant pest.

A “**Plant Pest**” is defined as any organism which may be injurious to the agricultural, horticultural, or other interests of the state, including, but not limited to, insects, bacteria, fungi, viruses, or weeds.

“**Poor Physical Condition**” is defined as any physical damage, wilting caused by lack of or by excessive water, damage caused by severe heat or cold, death, or any other condition which would cause decline in viability or increased susceptibility to plant pests when subsequently handled with normal care.

NOXIOUS WEEDS:

Plants listed on the Federal Noxious Weed List are prohibited from sale or distribution in Georgia. This includes varieties of *Imperata cylindrical* (e.g. ‘Japanese Bloodgrass’, ‘Red Baron’).

HOUSE PLANTS:

House plants maintained indoors and moving with household goods are exempt.

NOXIOUS WEED SEEDS (prohibited as contaminants in agricultural or vegetable seed for planting purposes)

- Calystegia sepium*Hedge Bindweed
- Cardiospermum halicacabum*Balloonvine
- Convolvulus arvensis*Field Bindweed
- Crotalaria spp.*Crotalaria
- Cyperus esculentus*.....Yellow Nutsedge

<i>Cyperus rotundus</i>	Purple Nutsedge
<i>Ipomoea turbinata</i>	Morningglory, Giant or Moonflower
<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>	Serrated Tussock
<i>Solanum viarum</i>	Tropical Soda Apple
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur

QUARANTINES OR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

BLUEBERRY SCORCH

STATES REGULATED: All states

MATERIALS REGULATED: Plants, buds, vegetative cuttings, root stock and/or any other propagative forms of Blueberries (*Vaccinium* species).

RESTRICTIONS: All regulated material moving into Georgia must be certified virus free by a virus-free certification program recognized by the Commissioner of Agriculture and must be accompanied by a State Phytosanitary Certificate. **Prior notification** of regulated commodity shipment is required. The shipper shall send by mail, facsimile or email a copy of the State Phytosanitary Certificate to: Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, 1109 Experiment Street; Redding Building; Griffin, Georgia 30223. The Certificate must list the type and quantity of plants, the address of shipper, the name and address of recipient, the test results, and contact number(s) of the shipper and recipient. Commodities shipped in violation of the requirements may be returned to their point of origin or destroyed at the expense of the owner.

BOLL WEEVIL (*Anthonomus grandis* Boheman)

STATES REGULATED: All states

REGULATED ARTICLES: raw cotton, seed cotton, gin trash, used cotton equipment, or alternate host plants or plant parts.

RESTRICTIONS:

Non-Infested Areas: Regulated Articles may be moved into Georgia unrestricted as long as the Commissioner believes the state of origin's department of agriculture, plant regulatory agency, or certified growers' organization is actively monitoring for live boll weevils and will adequately respond to any discovered infestation.

Infested Areas: Regulated Articles are prohibited from entering Georgia unless Accompanied by a permit issued by the Commissioner. Used cotton harvesting equipment is prohibited from entering the state unless the equipment has been thoroughly cleaned so as to remove all life stages of boll weevils, seed cotton, gin trash, cotton plants, bolls, and other products or articles capable of carrying live boll weevils.

CITRUS

STATES REGULATED: All states

MATERIALS REGULATED:

1. Citrus plants (including any plants, plant parts, budwood, rootstock, seeds, and any other parts thereof) in the genus of *Citrus*, *Eremocitrus*, *Microcitrus*, *Poncirus*, or *Fortunella* including any hybrid, grafted, or other plant having parentage in any of those genera; also, *Murraya exotica* and *Murraya paniculata* (orange jasmine, orange jessamine, or limonaria).
2. Arthropods
 - a. African citrus psyllid (*Trioza erythrae*)
 - b. Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*)
 - c. Brown citrus aphid (*Toxoptera citricida*)
3. Pathogens
 - a. Citrus greening (or huanglongbing; *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*)
 - b. Citrus Canker (*Xanthomonas axonopodis*)
 - c. Sweet Orange Scab (*Elsinoe australis*)
 - d. Citrus Black Spot (*Guignardia citricarpa*)

RESTRICTIONS:

Citrus plants entering Georgia must meet the following criteria:

1. Plants must have produced in a facility under a citrus certification compliance program with either the relevant state plant regulatory organization or USDA-APHIS-PPQ,
2. The state plant regulatory organization has been issued a Master Permit by the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection Division,
3. Scion trees or mother trees have been tested at least every three (3) years for the graph transmissible pathogens listed in these Rules and on the Department of Agriculture's website at <http://agr.georgia.gov/>. Rootstock seed source trees must be tested for Citrus greening (or huanglongbing; *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*), Citrus Leaf Blotch Virus (CLBV), and Citrus Psorosis Virus (CPsV) at least every six (6) years;
4. The citrus plants are shipped directly from the approved exclusion structure to Georgia.
5. Seeds must originate from a state certified seed source tree.

Budwood from the following facilities may enter Georgia without a Master Permit

1. California Citrus Clonal Protection Program,
2. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Bureau of Citrus Budwood Registration
3. Texas Citrus Budwood Certification Program, and

4. USDA-ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository for Citrus and Dates (USDA-ARS-NCGR).

VEGETABLE TRANSPLANTS

STATES REGULATED: All states. Additional restrictions apply to all states known to be infested or determined to be infested with cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus, cucurbit leaf crumple virus, squash leaf curl begomovirus or other viruses determined to be detrimental to vegetable or fruit production in Georgia.

MATERIALS REGULATED: All vegetable transplants. “Vegetable Transplant” means any plant for planting, including but not limited to members of the Alliaceae family (leek, onion, etc.), Asteraceae family (lettuce), Brassicaceae family (broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, etc.), Cucurbitaceae family (cantaloupe, squash, watermelon, etc.), Malvaceae family (okra) and Solanaceae family (eggplant, pepper, tobacco, tomato etc.) where the fruit or vegetative part will be consumed for food.

RESTRICTIONS: All vegetable transplants must be accompanied by an official certificate of inspection issued by the Plant Protection Official of the state of origin certifying compliance with these regulations and restrictions. The Commissioner of Agriculture or his agent may order transplants to be quarantined or destroyed if the transplants are believed to be or if they exhibit signs or symptoms of insect infestation or infection with a plant disease.

1. Vegetable transplants must be free from aphids, leaf miners, thrips, whiteflies, and other leaf or sap feeding insects.
2. Vegetable transplants must be free from diseases, including but not limited to, Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*), cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus, cucurbit leaf crumple virus, squash leaf curl begomovirus and other geminiviruses, closteroviruses or other diseases vectored by Bemisia species whitefly or other insect vectored diseases determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture to be detrimental to vegetable or fruit production in Georgia.
3. All vegetable transplants moved into Georgia must be regularly inspected during the growing season and be certified free of the plant pests noted above by the Plant Protection Official of the state of origin. The last inspection must be made no more than three days prior to pulling or shipment.
4. All vegetable transplants must have been treated during the growing season with appropriate Federal and State registered pesticides approved by the Plant Protection Official of the state of origin to control insect, bacterial and fungal plant pests. In addition all vegetable transplants must be treated an insecticide approved by the Commissioner according to label directions for control of whiteflies and other sap feeding insects.
5. All vegetable transplants must be packed at the farm on which they were produced, and labeled to show the name and address of the producer.
6. All vegetable transplants must be accompanied by Required Certification

7. Onion (Alliaceae family) shipments into Georgia:
 - a. The destination of transplants, quantity of shipment and variety(ies) shipped must be provided in writing to the Georgia Department of Agriculture by the shipper or seller must to in advance of shipping.
8. Organic:
 - a. Vegetable Transplants that are certified under the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Organic Program are permitted entry into Georgia provided that the vegetable transplants were grown in a greenhouse maintained in such manner as to prevent entry of whiteflies and other sap feeding insects, whiteflies were not detected on the plants during the growing season, and sticky traps were installed in the greenhouse and monitored at least on a weekly basis.

Additional Restrictions for the states of Arizona, California, Florida and Texas, or any other state where cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus, cucurbit leaf crumple virus or squash leaf curl begomovirus are known to be established. Vegetable transplants must be free from pests listed above. Field grown onions (Alliaceae family) from the states of Arizona, California, Florida or Texas will be eligible for entry into Georgia if shipper provides the following information in writing to the Georgia Department of Agriculture **in advance of shipping**: destination of transplants, quantity of shipment and variety(ies) shipped.

1. Field grown vegetable transplants other than onion transplants (Alliaceae family) are not eligible for shipment into the State of Georgia.
2. Screenhouse or greenhouses must be maintained in such manner as to prevent entry of whiteflies. Screenhouse or Greenhouse grown vegetable transplants will not be accepted if *Bemisia* species whiteflies are detected on the plants during the growing season.
3. Vegetable transplants must be visually inspected for freedom of disease symptoms, aphids, leaf miners, thrips, whiteflies, and other leaf or sap feeding insects at least once per week.
4. Sticky traps must be installed in the screenhouse or greenhouse and monitored at least on a weekly basis. Minimum trapping rates will be two (2) 8 x 12 inch yellow sticky board traps per screenhouse or greenhouse.
5. Prior notification of regulated commodity shipment is required for the states of Arizona, California, Florida and Texas, or any other state where cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus, cucurbit leaf crumple virus or squash leaf curl begomovirus are known to be established. **The shipper shall send by mail or facsimile a copy of the certificate of inspection or State Phytosanitary Certificate to: Vegetable Transplant Inspection/Certification Program, Plant Protection Division, Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 114, Tifton, Georgia 31793; facsimile 229- 386-7052.**

APIARY

STATES REGULATED: All

MATERIALS REGULATED: All types and life stages of the honey bee.

RESTRICTIONS: Queen and package bees produced outside the State of Georgia may be shipped into Georgia when accompanied by a certificate issued by the apiary official of the state where the bees were produced, certifying that the apiaries of the producer have been inspected within one (1) year of the date of shipment and that such apiaries have been found apparently free of American and European Foulbrood and other diseases. All queen and package bees shipped into Georgia must originate from colonies that have been treated at least 7 days prior to shipment with a pesticide registered with the U. S. Environmental Protection for controlling Varroa destructor. No honey bees on comb or in hives shall be moved into or located in Georgia unless a permit has been obtained from the Commissioner of Agriculture of the State of Georgia. Honey bees on comb or in hives may enter Georgia from any other state for the sole purpose of passage through Georgia, subject to the following conditions: the shipment shall be securely netted or contained in refrigerated vessels to prevent escape; movement through Georgia will be made without interruption, except for necessary fueling, meals, sleep, or emergency service. Any bees or hives found by the Commissioner to have been shipped into or brought into Georgia in violation of any provision of this Chapter shall be subject to immediate depopulation or hive destruction under the direct supervision of the Commissioner.