Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) of New Zealand
Plants Biosecurity Index (PIER) database
(formerly "Plant Biosecurity Index – PBI")

We hope that we have accurately and understandably compiled all information given below. However, if any inquiry, doubt or uncertainty should arise, please do not hesitate to contact us. We want you to receive your seeds as soon as possible and to keep the bureaucratic workload to a minimum for you !

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Flower and plant seeds may be imported to New Zealand a) **without a phytosanitary certificate** and b) **without an import permit** if they do not require a risk assessment and/or special treatment upon arrival. The full procedure for importing seeds is given on this page:
https://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/plants/seeds-for-sowing/

The full legal text concerning seeds for sowing can be downloaded from this page:
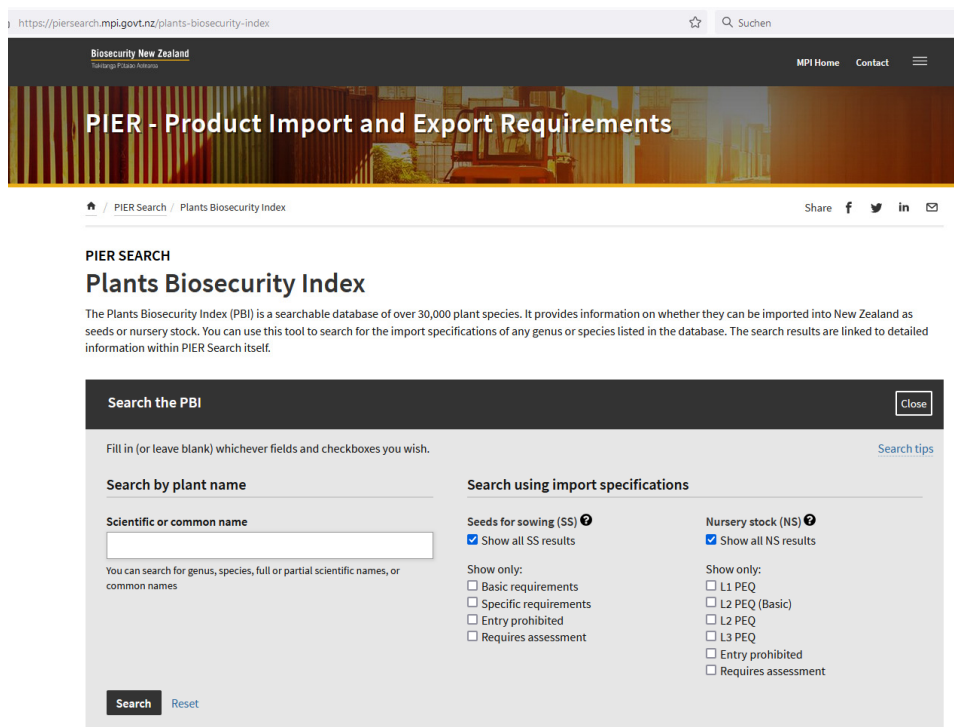https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1151-seeds-for-sowing-import-health-standard

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How to get started
Prior to ordering any seeds from our shop, please check the species's status in the **Plants Biosecurity Index** (PIER) database:

https://piersearch.mpi.govt.nz/plants-biosecurity-index

The easiest way to check the status is to enter the **genus' name only** in field "Scientific or common name" and to click on "search". For example the genus "Digitalis" (foxgloves):

The result will display a list of all species entries in the PIER database. In the case of the genus "Digitalis", the search result will be the following:

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Plant name ↑↓	Other name(s) ↑↓	Seeds for sowing (SS) Import specification ↑↓	Nursery stock (NS) Import specification ↑↓
		Search for SS schedule	Search for NS schedule
Digitalis alba	-	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis ciliata	-	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis davisiana	-	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis dubia	-	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis ferruginea	-	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis grandiflora	Digitalis ambigua	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis laevigata	-	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis lamarckii	-	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis lanata	-	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis lutea	-	Basic	Requires assessment

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The first column lists all species found in the database, the second column shows any synonyms for this species, and the third column provides some import specifications for seeds for sowing of a particular species. The fourth and lastcolumn is for nursery stock (i.e. plants) only and does not apply to seeds.

A) Permitted species

For example in the case of seeds from "Digitalis ferruginea" the specification in the third column is **"Basic"**:

Digitalis ferruginea	-	Basic	Requires assessment

"Basic" means that seeds of this particular species are **permitted entry** without a phytosanitary certificate and without an import permit. **These seeds can be shipped to you**.

Officially, upon arrival in New Zealand, the consignment must be inspected at the importer's expense. However, and as outlined by one New Zealand customer, it appears that at present the inspection of at least of small seed packages is not charged with any fee, and thus it is free for the importer.

Please note that we cannot give any warranty on the aforehand mentioned. If in doubt on any additional expenses or fees, please contact MPI officers in order not to have any unpleasant surprises: plantimports@mpi.govt.nz

B) Prohibited species

If the result in the second column of the PBI database **is not "Basic"** but one of the following, **seeds cannot be shipped**:

see 155.02.05 under _X_	Seed can be imported according to 'X' section in the IHS, Part 2. (155.02.05 refers to the *Seeds for sowing* IHS).
Requires assessment	Seed can't be imported – you can ask MPI about having the seed assessed by emailing plantimports@mpi.govt.nz
Entry prohibited	Seed can't be imported – to import a new species that isn't listed in the PBI, apply to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval.
Blank (no result)	Usually happens when a synonym has been used – for example, *Abelia grandiflora* instead of *Abelia xgrandiflora*. Search using the synonym (*Abelia xgrandiflora*) to get requirements.

For example in the case of "Helianthus" (sunflowers) the results are:

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Plant name	Other name(s)	Seeds for sowing (SS) Import specification	Nursery stock (NS) Import specification
		Search for SS schedule	Search for NS schedule
Helianthus annuus	Sunflower	See 155.02.05 under Helianthus	Requires assessment
Helianthus ciliaris	-	Entry Prohibited	Entry Prohibited
Helianthus debilis	-	See 155.02.05 under Helianthus	Requires assessment
Helianthus multiflorus	-	See 155.02.05 under Helianthus	Requires assessment
Helianthus salicifolius	-	See 155.02.05 under Helianthus	Requires assessment
Helianthus tuberosus	-	See 155.02.05 under Helianthus	L2 see 155.02.06 under Helianthus
Helianthus xlaetiflorus	Helianthus laetiflorus	See 155.02.05 under Helianthus	L2 see 155.02.06 under Helianthus

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This means that seeds from all Helianthus species are either prohibited entry or they need a special (extremely cost intensive) treatment upon arrival plus a phytosanitary certificate. **These seeds cannot be shipped to New Zealand**.

Last but not least, **in case that there is no match in the database** for any particular species which your are looking for, then **seeds from this species cannot be shipped** either.

Other information of interest

We will visually control all seeds before packing them in order to ensure that they are free of pests (mold, etc.) and that they are as free from inert plant debris (e.g. dry flower petals) as possible and as required by MPI import conditions. If we may find that a particular seed lot has caught mold during storage, we will notify the customer and give a full refund of the purchase price for this item. Several recalcitrant seeds have to be stored slightly moist in order not to lose viability. These seeds are prone to superficial mold, which does not harm the seeds nor does it have any negative effect on germination, nonetheless MPI officers will discart them and thus we will omit these.

All our shipments will include a commercial invoice with all included seed packages identified down to species level. All seeds are packed into transparent plastic zip lock bags and are labelled with the species name and seed quantity to make it easier for MPI officers to inspect these.

A customs' slip will be attached outside the package, with contents stated as"Seeds from ornamental plants – permitted species". And last but not least, an additional sticker "Quarantine material for inspection" will be placed outside the package.

Information supplied as of 11 Nov 2022.