

## Small Lots of Seed Permit (compulsory to U.S. customers only)

We hope that we have accurately and understandably compiled all relevant 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 order as soon as possible and to keep the bureaucratic workload to a minimum for you !

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All flower and plant seed shipments to the U.S. **must enter the U.S. with a special import permit** applied for by the customer and issued by U.S. authorities. In order to receive seeds in small quantities from outside the U.S., the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (**APHIS**) offers a "**Small Lots of Seed Permit**". With this permit a separate phytosanitary certificate for seed orders from abroad is not required. This makes it easier, less expensive and safer for you to legally import plant seeds to the U.S.

The "Small Lots of Seed Permit" is **free of charge** and you may make several copies for subsequent orders. Each copy of the permit is good for ordering **up to 50 packages** of different species. From each species you may order **either 50 seeds or 10g of seeds**, whatever is less. You find the exact amount of seeds per package on our website. We recommend you to order only one package per species in our shop. If you would like to order more than 1 package from a single species, please contact us. We will calculate the total weight for your required amount of seeds from a certain species and let you know if it can be shipped in a single consignment.

### IMPORTANT

After you have received the **permit** and a separate sheet with several **yellow/green address labels** from APHIS, please **send us for each 50 seed packages** in your order:

- **1 copy of the entire permit (ALL 3 pages)**
- AND
- **1 yellow/green address label.**

Our postal address is:

**Rareplants.eu**  
**Bjoern Malkmus-Hussein**  
**Calle Flor de Pascua, 13**  
**38314 La Orotava (S/C de Tenerife)**  
**SPAIN**

Alternatively, and in order to speed up things, you may want to **e-mail** the entire permit and 1 yellow/green address label as attachments to:

**aphis@rareplants.eu**

Upon receipt of your permit copy and one yellow/green address label we will dispatch your order via registered air mail to the appropriate APHIS office in the U.S., which is stated on the yellow/green address label.

**Once APHIS will have finished inspection** (which may some 2 to 4 weeks on average), **they may contact you in order to send them a self-addressed and pre-paid USPS shipping label to forward seeds to your home address.** However, this depends on the APHIS inspection facility and in particular on inspectors. Some facilities and/or inspectors may not request a pre-paid USPS shipping label from you, but instead they will directly forward seeds to your address at no extra costs. If in doubt, please contact the APHIS facility which appears on the green/yellow label.



# ePermit System

The application for s Small Lots of Seed Permit has to be made electronically with a valid U.S. security number via the APHIS **ePermit system**.

In order to use this method, you first have to sign up for an **eAuthentication User ID** and a **Password**:

**<https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/>**

After registration and login, on the above page select from the drop down field :

**“PPQ 587 (Application for permit to import plants or plant products)”**

The screenshot shows the top of the eFile website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the URL <https://efile.aphis.usda.gov/s/>. Below this is a section titled "Changes To Login Credentials – Updated 7/15/2024". The text below this title states: "Signing into eFile requires a login credential, either a USDA eAuthentication or login.gov account, which are issued to an individual person. Beginning July 2024, a percentage of users will be required to switch to Login.gov credentials." Below this is another section: "In order to retain access to your eFile records, you **MUST** link your login.gov to your existing eAuth credential when setting up your account. Users who complete this process will not need to repeat identity-verification. Users with multiple eAuth accounts should be sure that the username/password they are linking to login.gov is the account currently used for your eFile applications and permits." Below that is a third section: "This transition process will continue through September 2024, at which point all customers will be required to use Login.gov. Users who have never had an eAuth account or a login.gov account will not be affected. More information about this transition, including instructions on setting up a login.gov account, can be found [here](#). For questions about this transition or to get help with your account, please contact the [USDA help desk](#)." Below the text is a large heading "Ready to Apply?". Underneath this heading is the text "Start here if you already know what license, registration or permit type you need." Below this text is a dropdown menu with "PPQ-587" selected and a "Get started" button. The dropdown menu is circled in red.

**Is this your first time using APHIS eFile? Let us help you find what you need**

The image shows four icons in a row, each with a corresponding question below it. The first icon is a cat, with the question "Do you breed, deal in, exhibit or transport animals?". The second icon is a microscope, with the question "Do you import, transport, or plant genetically engineered organisms?" and a link "Check out our Biotechnology". The third icon is a leaf, with the question "Do you import or transit plants, plant pests, soil, or agricultural products?". The fourth icon is a green plant, with the question "Do you import or transport animals, animal products, plants, or bacteria/fungi?".

The following steps you will have to figure out yourself, as we do not have access to this system as it is restricted to users with a valid US social security number.

Thus the following information are given as a guideline, the actual data may differ that you have to enter into the system.



During the application process you will be asked to provide several data. Apart from your personal data (name, shipping address, etc.) you will also need to state the below data highlighted in green color:

| <b>Plants or Plant Products to be Imported:</b> |   |                    |  |
|---|---|--------------------|--|
| <b>Country of Origin</b>                        | <b>Scientific Names of Plants or Plant Products</b> | <b>Plant Parts</b> | <b>U.S. Port or Ports of Arrival</b>                                   |
| <i>Spain</i> <sup>(1)</sup>                     | <i>eligible taxa</i> <sup>(2)</sup>                 | <i>seeds</i>       | <i>[State the Port of Arrival or simply state "N/A" if not known.]</i> |

<sup>(1)</sup> In the droplist list there may also appear "Various approved countries". If so, please select the latter instead of "Spain".

<sup>(2)</sup> If the droplist does not give you a generic option "eligible taxa", which will cover all allowed species, you will have to select all species/entire genera in the dropdown list, which you would like to import under this permit

**Intended use: "Small Lots of Seed"**

**Means of transportation: "Mail or Express carrier"**

After transmitting the application you will receive the permit usually within few hours to few days.

Please note that apart from a **copy of the entire permit**, we will also need a corresponding **yellow/green address shipping label**. From our experience, usually these shipping labels will not be included with the permit, but you will have to apply for these labels separately in the ePermit system after having received the permit itself.

**Disclaimer:** As the access to the ePermit system is only granted with a valid U.S. social security number, we cannot give any guarantee that the above information is complete and accurate.

If you should discover any discrepancy, we would greatly appreciate your feedback so that we can improve and adjust our information accordingly: [aphis@rareplants.eu](mailto:aphis@rareplants.eu)



## Prohibited/restricted species

At present our seed stock includes several species/entire genera, which are prohibited importation to the U.S., and/or which may require some additional treatment and/or inspection prior shipping, and/or which are considered endangered by federal U.S law. **These prohibited/restricted seeds cannot be imported to the U.S. under a Small Lots of Seed Permit.**

Examples for these prohibited/restricted species are:

*Asphodelus fistulosus*

*Bartsia* spp.

*Capsicum* spp. and all *Capsicum* cultivars ("chilis", "hot peppers", etc.)

*Castilleja* spp.

*Gossypium* spp.

*Helianthus annuus* (wild form and all cultivars)

*Hibiscus* spp.

*Lathyrus* spp.

*Linum usitatissimum*

*Orobancha* spp.

*Parentucellia* spp.

*Salvia officinalis*

*Sphaeralcea gierischii*

*Vicia* spp.

(Please note that the above list is not exhaustive nor complete!)

We have added a comment in the description of all of the above species/genera in the shop that these cannot be shipped to the U.S, and as such they should not be ordered by US customers. However, we cannot guarantee that we did not oversee a particular species - the entire USDA list we had to countercheck with our own seed stock (covering > 4,000 species) is more than 1,400 pages long ...

If APHIS plants' inspectors may find any prohibited/restricted seeds in your consignment, they will remove the ineligible kinds and forward to you the remaining, allowed items. In case that APHIS inspectors may remove seeds from a particular species from your order, please let us know ! Simply send us a photo from the APHIS stamp showing the removed item(s). Upon receiving this proof, we will give you a full refund for any seized item without any quarrel !!

We do not sell any genetically modified species and none of our seeds are pelleted, coated nor treated with any fungicide or insecticide in order to comply with the terms set by APHIS. All seeds are packed in resealable transparent plastic zip-lock bags and labelled with full species name and quantity of seeds.

*Information supplied as of 7 February 2025.*

