



Summary of Maine's Regulations on Importing Plant Material

Maine has several quarantines in place to protect our plant and natural resources from harmful insect, diseases and plants. The following are some of Maine's regulations pertaining to plants commonly sold by the nursery industry. Please keep these regulations in mind when you are ordering and receiving shipments of plants.

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) quarantine – Hemlock trees are only allowed from certain areas with certification paperwork. HWA is a serious pest that attacks and kills hemlock trees, an important landscape and forest species in Maine. This pest is commonly found in many states, but its distribution is very limited within the State of Maine. The further spread of HWA on hemlock nursery stock is of great concern to us at the Maine Department of Agriculture. For this reason Maine maintains a strict quarantine regulating the movement of hemlock plant material into the state.

To meet the requirements of the HWA quarantine all hemlock plants coming into Maine must originate from areas where HWA is not established and shipments must be accompanied by a certificate issued by the plant protection organization of the origin state. A copy of the certificate should be sent or faxed to the Maine Department of Agriculture so that the trees can be inspected upon arrival. For more information on bringing hemlocks into Maine visit: www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/horticulture/ImportingHemlocks.htm

White pine blister rust (WPBR) quarantine – Currants and gooseberry plants cannot be sold in most areas of Maine. Maine maintains a quarantine to prevent the spread of WPBR. WPBR is a serious disease of white pine, a major forest and economic species in Maine. WPBR weakens and kills infected trees and can prevent the regeneration of white pine in some forest areas. In addition to infecting white pine, WPBR also infects *Ribes* species (currants and gooseberries). *Ribes* spp. play an important role in the survival and spread of the disease. Infections of WPBR cannot be passed from pine tree to pine tree, but must infect a *Ribes* plant to spread to pine. For this reason the sale, transportation and possession of *Ribes* spp. is illegal throughout most of Maine and the sale of *Ribes nigrum* (black currant) is illegal in the entire State of Maine. Some *Ribes* spp. (including red currants) may be sold in extreme northern and eastern portions of Maine. A map of the area where some *Ribes* can be sold is available on our website at www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/horticulture/expreq.htm.

Banned invasive aquatic plants – Eleven aquatic plants cannot be sold in Maine. The Maine Department of Agriculture along with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection are extremely concerned with the introduction of foreign and invasive aquatic plants to Maine's waterways. The State of Maine has a law banning the sale, propagation and introduction to Maine of eleven aquatic plants considered invasive. These plants are: Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*), hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), curly leaved pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*), parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), European frogbit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*), variable leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), European naiad (*Najas minor*), water chestnut (*Trapa natans*), Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltata*), Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*).

If your locations in Maine are currently in possession of any of the plants mentioned here please contact Ann Gibbs at 207-287-3891 or email ann.gibbs@maine.gov to discuss how to best dispose of them.

For more information on any of these regulations, please feel free to contact Ann Gibbs or visit our website at: www.maine.gov/agriculture/pi/horticulture/expreq.htm and scroll down to the section on importing plants. Thank you for your attention in this matter and please be aware of these regulations when accepting any future shipments of plant material.