



MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY
DIVISION OF ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH
28 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0028

PHONE: 207-287-3891
FAX: 207-287-7548
WWW.MAINE.GOV/DACF

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 ordering and receiving shipments of plants. **If your locations in Maine are currently in possession of any of the plants mentioned here please contact the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to discuss how best to dispose of them.**

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. The further spread of HWA on hemlock nursery stock is of great concern. For this reason Maine maintains a strict quarantine regulating the movement of hemlock plant material into and within the state.

To meet the requirements of the HWA quarantine all hemlock plants coming into un-infested areas of 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. For more information on bringing hemlocks into Maine visit: www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/importinghemlocks.shtml

White pine blister rust (WPBR) quarantine – Currants and gooseberry plants cannot be sold in most areas of Maine. 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. For more information, including a map of where some *Ribes* spp. may be planted visit: www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/quarantine_information.html

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*). For more information visit: www.maine.gov/dep/water/invasives