

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

DA-2020-21

October 5, 2020

Subject: APHIS Updates Import Requirements of Fresh Cut Amaranth (*Amaranthus sp.*)
from Jamaica

To: State and Territory Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the requirements for commercial shipments of amaranth (callaloo) *Amaranthus sp* from Jamaica. In addition to the current import permit, all shipments of amaranth arriving in the United States must now be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate attesting that the shipment is free of quarantine pests. Only commercial consignments will be allowed entry. Fumigation with methyl bromide will remain a treatment option if quarantine pests are detected upon arrival at the U.S. ports of entry.

APHIS has been monitoring interception rates associated with this commodity since it was removed from the preclearance program in 2013. Analysis of inspection data indicated that pest interceptions were unacceptably high for Jamaica amaranth importations. Since 2013, twenty-five percent of amaranth shipments were fumigated with methyl bromide or destroyed due to multiple quarantine pest detections.

Previously, imports of amaranth from Jamaica were commercially enterable into the United States with an import permit and inspection upon arrival at the first port of entry. Due to the pest risk, APHIS determined that the additional requirement of a phytosanitary certificate is necessary to prevent the entry of quarantine pests associated with amaranth from Jamaica. Importations of amaranth brought in by travelers as passenger baggage and in other non-commercial pathways are now prohibited.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Regulatory Policy Specialist Carol Kreger at 301-851-2356 or carol.m.kreger@usda.gov.

/s/

Osama El Lissy
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

**United States Department of Agriculture
Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine**

Federal Order

**Implementation of phytosanitary certificate requirement for commercial shipments of
Amaranth (*Amaranthus* sp.) from Jamaica**

DA-2020-21

Effective immediately, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is revising the requirements for commercial consignments of amaranth (callaloo) (*Amaranthus* sp.) from Jamaica and prohibiting entry via passenger baggage.

This Federal Order is issued in accordance with the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412 (a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a). Under the Act, the Secretary may prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation, or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article, or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed within the United States. The regulatory authority provided by 7 U.S.C. 7754 allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act.

Since 2013, APHIS has been monitoring interception rates associated with this commodity. An analysis of inspection data indicated that pest interceptions were unacceptably high for Jamaica amaranth importations. To mitigate the risk and prevent the introduction of various quarantine pests intercepted and recorded in association with amaranth stems and foliage, APHIS is now requiring that a phytosanitary certificate accompany each shipment.

Previously, imports of amaranth from Jamaica were commercially enterable into the United States with an import permit and inspection upon arrival at the first port of entry. APHIS has determined that an additional requirement of a phytosanitary certificate is necessary to prevent the entry of actionable quarantine pests associated with amaranth from Jamaica. This change applies strictly to commercial shipments. Importations of amaranth brought in by travelers as passenger baggage and in other non-commercial pathways are now prohibited.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Regulatory Policy Specialist Carol Kreger at 301-851-2356 or carol.m.kreger@usda.gov.