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# Contacting the PGQP

Last Modified:

Our customers include any person, commercial company, state or federal government researcher, arboreta or repositories, and university scientists who wish to import plant parts for propagation of prohibited genera. Some of the material imported into the U.S. through PGQP is for public distribution and destined for conservation at the appropriate repositories in the National Plant Germplasm System. However, PGQP regularly processes proprietary plants, genetically modified plants (GMOs), and even noxious weeds for different importers. At the present time, PGQP is the only legal means for these scientists and companies to import propagative material of certain prohibited genera.

Each potential importer must contact the PGQP crop manager responsible for the specific crop and provide him/her with the name, address and phone number of the foreign contact and the cultivar names or plant designations for each desired introduction. The PGQP crop manager will send a request letter and the proper permits to the exporter to arrange for the importation.

PGQP crop managers have also provided importers who travel on collection trips with the proper permits before the trip. To a limited extent, PGQP has also arranged with APHIS and Customs & Border Patrol (CBP, DHS) for importers to hand carry plant material back to the U.S. and then ship the plant material to PGQP. However, hand carrying plant material is being discouraged by CBP and APHIS in the future. Travelers are encouraged to ship collected plant material from a foreign location to PGQP via international courier services.

Basic information about each introduction at PGQP is publicly available in the USDA-ARS Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN) database. Each importer should search this database before requesting introductions to determine if the desired plant introductions are available from the appropriate crop repository or if they are already in quarantine at PGQP. The most complete and current information on the status of any accession at PGQP can only be provided by the appropriate crop manager.

Written correspondence, telephone and FAX inquiries can be made to:

USDA, APHIS, PPQ, PGQP  
Bldg. 580, BARC-East  
9901 Powder Mill Road  
Beltsville, MD 20705  
Telephone: 301-313-9301  
Fax: 301-504-6124

Before the application deadline, each PGQP crop manager operates on a "first come - first serve" basis. PGQP does not charge any fees for any of its services. Since facilities, personnel and resources are limited, a quota system has been developed to ensure that the workload does not exceed the program's capacity. As the number of accessions scheduled for that year approaches the quota, the PGQP crop manager may ask importers to set priorities. PGQP can not guarantee that requests to import plant propagules received after the application deadline can be filled that year.

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Yearly Capacity</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Receipt Deadline</b>
Bamboo	100	November 30	February 28
Cassava	20	November 30	February 28
Grass Clones	100	October 31	January 15
Grass Seed	20	November 30	April 1
Pome Fruits	50	September 30	January 31
Potato Clones	75	May 31	September 30
Potato Seed	50	May 31	September 30
Rice Seed	200	October 31	January 31
Small Fruits	30	September 30	January 31
Stone Fruit Clones	50	September 30	January 31
Stone Fruit Seed	20	June 1	September 30

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Yearly Capacity</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b>	<b>Receipt Deadline</b>
Sugarcane	75	May 31	August 30
Sweet Potato	30	November 30	February 28
Woody Ornamentals	20	November 30	April 1

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