

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2026-17
May 20, 2026

Subject: APHIS Restricts Imports of Rose (*Rosa* spp.) Plants for Planting Due to *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 Biovar 2

To: State, Tribal, and Territory Agricultural Regulatory Officials

Effective immediately, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending the importation requirements for rose (*Rosa* spp.) plants for planting to prevent the introduction of *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 biovar 2 (*Rs* R3bv2) into the United States. *Rs* R3bv2 is not known to occur in the United States. This bacterium colonizes the vascular system of plants, causing wilting and death. It causes diseases such as brown rot of potato, bacterial wilt of tomato and eggplant, and southern wilt of geranium.

Rs R3bv2 is regulated by APHIS as a Select Agent and is synonymous with *Ralstonia solanacearum* phylotype IIB, sequevars 1 and 2 (abbreviated IIB-1 and IIB-2). All strains of *Ralstonia solanacearum* are treated as a potential Select Agent in the United States and subject to the highest levels of phytosanitary regulation until proven not to belong to *Rs* R3bv2. *Rs* R3bv2 is known to infect potato, tomato, eggplant, pepper, and geranium crops. It now has been shown to asymptotically infect ornamental roses (*Rosa* spp.).

Prior to this Federal Order, ornamental roses were allowed to enter the United States without specific safeguards against *Rs* R3bv2, making roses imported for planting a potential pathway for pest introduction. Specifically, *Rosa* spp. were allowed importation into the United States under postentry quarantine (PEQ) from Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. *Rosa* spp. were also admissible with additional declarations from Canada. From all other countries, *Rosa* spp. are not authorized pending pest risk analysis (NAPPRA).

This Federal Order restricts the importation of *Rosa* spp. plants for planting into the United States due to *Rosa* spp. recently being identified as a host of *Rs* R3bv2. As described in this Federal Order, *Rosa* spp. plants for planting may continue to be imported into the United States under postentry quarantine from Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom only if those plants have been produced in a pest-free place of production or pest-free production site for *Rs* R3bv2 as certified by their National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO). After making U.S. entry, all standard PEQ requirements will remain in effect. From Canada, *Rosa* spp. may continue to be imported only if all plant parts (including rootstock and graft material) were solely grown in Canada or the United States. Shipments must be imported under the U.S.-Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program (GCP) or the Canadian Nursery Certification Program (CNCP); plants grown outside of the GCP or CNCP must be accompanied by a Canadian phytosanitary certificate for export.

From all other countries, *Rosa* spp. plants for planting must be imported under a Controlled Import Permit. Alternatively, NPPOs may submit a request to APHIS to remove NAPPRA status for this taxon.

This restriction applies to *Rosa* spp. plants for planting and all plant parts intended for propagation except seed, and to all means of importation and movement, including commercial and non-commercial cargo, passenger baggage, international mail, and express courier shipments. *Rosa* spp. cut flowers are exempt from this Federal Order.

For additional information regarding this Federal Order, please contact Regulatory Policy Specialists Marla Cazier at 970-494-7562, marla.j.cazier@usda.gov, or Shannon Jarman at 650-705-8837, shannon.e.jarman@usda.gov.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of sharp, vertical peaks followed by a smooth, sweeping curve to the right.

Matthew Rhoads
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

Attachment: Federal Order

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

Federal Order

**APHIS Restricts Imports of rose (*Rosa* spp.) plants for planting due to
Ralstonia solanacearum Race 3 biovar 2**

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Effective immediately, the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is amending the importation requirements for rose (*Rosa* spp.) plants for planting to prevent the introduction of *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 biovar 2 (*Rs* R3bv2) into the United States. *Rs* R3Bbv2 is synonymous with *Ralstonia solanacearum* phylotype IIB, sequevars 1 and 2 (abbreviated IIB-1 and IIB-2) (<https://www.selectagents.gov/sat/list.htm>). This action is necessary because APHIS has determined the entry and establishment of *Rs* R3bv2 poses a serious threat to agriculture in the United States.

This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of 2000, as amended (7 U.S.C. 7701-7772, 7781-7786). Section 412(a) of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7712(a)) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to “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 statutory authority provided by 7 U.S.C. 7754 allows the Secretary to issue orders to carry out this provision of the Plant Protection Act. This Federal Order is also issued pursuant to the regulations promulgated under the Plant Protection Act and found in the Code of Federal Regulations at 7 CFR part 319.

Rs R3bv2 is regulated by APHIS as a Select Agent. *Rs* R3bv2 is a bacterium that destroys the vascular system of plants, causing them to succumb to wilt disease. It causes diseases such as brown rot of potato, bacterial wilt of tomato and eggplant, and southern wilt of geranium. *Rs* R3bv2 was previously known to infect potato, tomato, eggplant, pepper, and geranium crops but has been recently reported to be associated with ornamental *Rosa* spp. *Rs* R3bv2 is not known to occur in the United States.

Effective immediately, *Rosa* spp. plants for planting from Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom may continue to enter the United States only under postentry quarantine (PEQ) and only if the exporting National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) certifies that the place of production or production site has been approved by the NPPO as a pest-free place of production or pest-free production site for *Rs* R3bv2, consistent with International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) 10: *Requirements for the establishment of pest free places of production and pest free production sites*. All standard PEQ requirements in 7 CFR 319.37-23 remain in effect. Plants from these five countries must be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with an additional declaration certifying the following requirements have been met prior to export to the United States and territories:

- The plants for planting in this shipment were solely grown and produced in a certified pest-free place of production or a pest-free production site for *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 biovar 2 (*Rs* R3bv2) following the requirements of the ISPM-10. The shipment has been tested and found to be free of *Rs* R3bv2

Rosa spp. may continue to be imported from Canada only if all plant parts (including rootstock and graft material) were solely grown in Canada or the United States. Shipments must enter the United States under the U.S.-Canada Greenhouse-Grown Plant Certification Program (GCP) or the Canadian Nursery Certification Program (CNCP). *Rosa* spp. plants for planting shipped from Canada outside of the GCP or CNCP must meet the requirements for Plants for Planting Considered as Being from Canada in the [Plants for Planting Manual](#) and be accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate with the following additional declaration:

- The *Rosa* spp. plants for planting have solely been grown in Canada or the United States, and *Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3 biovar 2 is not known to occur in Canada.

All *Rosa* spp. plants for planting from countries other than those listed above must be imported under a Controlled Import Permit in accordance with 7 CFR 319.37-4(f). Alternatively, a NPPO may submit a request to APHIS to remove NAPPRA status for this taxon as described in 7 CFR 319.37-4(e). This restriction applies to *Rosa* spp. plants for planting and all plant parts intended for propagation except seed, and to all means of importation and movement, including commercial and non-commercial cargo, passenger baggage, international mail, and express courier shipments. *Rosa* spp. cut flowers are exempt from this Federal Order.

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