



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

17 May 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/15
PERMITTED SEEDS LIST REVIEW

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum invites stakeholders to comment on a list of species thought to be in Australia and proposed to remain on the permitted seeds list, as part of the Permitted Seeds List Review being undertaken by Biosecurity Australia.

Biosecurity Australia is conducting a review of the list of plant seeds that are permitted entry to Australia (Schedule 5 of *Quarantine Proclamation 1998*, also known as the 'Permitted Seeds list'). The review involves replacing 2913 genus-level listings, currently on the Permitted Seeds List, with the species within those genera that are already present in Australia.

The review of the Permitted Seeds List is intended to protect Australia's favourable pest and disease free status by preventing the import of exotic weedy species. In conducting the review, we also need to comply with our international obligations by ensuring that species already present in Australia and not under official control are not prohibited.

Biosecurity Australia is inviting stakeholders to comment on a list of species thought to be in Australia and proposed to remain on the Permitted Seeds List.

Please note that Biosecurity Australia intends to keep the family Orchidaceae on the Permitted Seeds List. However, all current genera within the family Orchidaceae will be removed as they are already permitted under the family-level listing.

The removal of genus-level entries is not a blanket exclusion of those species that are not included on the Permitted Seeds List. Importers can approach AQIS and seek a Weed Risk Assessment on any plant species to determine its weed risk to Australia's agriculture and/or the environment. Provided that the assessment concludes that the weed potential is low and there are no other quarantine concerns, the species will be added to the Permitted Seeds List and imports allowed.

To streamline the process Biosecurity Australia has developed a website that will allow users to view the list of species and submit comments online. The website includes more detailed information on the review.

The website can be accessed from www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. Please note that this website will only be accessible until 14 July 2006.

You can only make one submission, however the electronic system allows you to save your work as you progress through the comment process and return to the same place as often as you require before it is finally submitted to BA. To log on to the system, you will need a unique username and password that has been provided by Biosecurity Australia to registered stakeholders with an interest in seeds.

Once you have completed your comments, your password will be automatically de-activated and you will be unable to make further comments. Further details are available on the website.

If you do not have access to the Internet or have not been provided with a username and password and you wish to comment on the list please contact Biosecurity Australia. Please direct any questions about the Permitted Seeds List Review by e-mail or letter to:

permittedseedlist@daff.gov.au

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Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Dr Bill Roberts
Acting Chief Executive
Biosecurity Australia