



Notice to Travellers Bringing Fresh Fruit, Fresh Vegetables, Meat and Animal Products, Fish and Seafood, Seeds for Planting, Plants, Cut Flowers and Greenery, Live Animals and Birds, Alcoholic Beverages, Cigars, Medication, Outdoor Articles and Recreational Vehicles from Canada to the United States

Updated November 1, 2006 (Subject to further updates and revisions without notice)

The information provided in this bulletin has been compiled as a general guide for bringing fresh fruits, fresh vegetables, meat and animal products, seed for planting, plants, cut flowers and greenery, live animals and birds, alcoholic beverages, cigars, medication and outdoor articles and recreational vehicles into the United States from Canada. It is not intended to be a comprehensive or all-inclusive list. If in doubt, or for more information, please contact the specific U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service office at the Canada/U.S. border crossing you are planning to use before starting your trip.

Please note some states; including Florida, Texas, and California, may have more restrictive entry requirements than those listed if that is your final destination. Information is also available at the website www.aphis.usda.gov.

**All categories of items contained in this bulletin
MUST BE DECLARED
at the time of entry into the United States regardless of whether they are allowed or not.**

**You could be assessed a SIGNIFICANT MONETARY PENALTY for not declaring all such items as well
as possibly being banned from entering the United States.**

FRESH FRUITS

- U.S. fruits, except citrus, are allowed back into the United States if they are in season and clearly marked with U.S. brand labels (e.g. Washington apples with stickers). Citrus fruits are imported into Canada from all over the world and may carry pests or disease that would be harmful to U.S. agriculture. Due to this risk citrus fruit is not allowed.
- Fruit grown in Canada or the United States is allowed. Labelled bananas from South or Central America are allowed. Other fruits are restricted or not allowed. Fruits that are obviously out-of-season when they are presented at the border (e.g. grapes or peaches in the spring) are not grown in Canada or the United States and are not allowed.
- Citrus, mangos, avocados, rambutans, plantains, lychee, longans, langsat, durian, and many other fruits are not grown in Canada. Canada imports fruit from many countries. If there is any doubt about the fruits' country of origin, the fruit will not be allowed.

FRESH VEGETABLES

- Vegetables grown in Canada or the United States are allowed. Potatoes are allowed only if in intact, labelled bags or if peeled. Other vegetables are restricted or not allowed. Frozen vegetables are allowed.
- Corn-on-the-cob grown in British Columbia is allowed; from other provinces special certification is required.

MEAT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

- Beef, lamb and pet foods are not allowed. This includes meat in sandwiches that you may have packed to eat on your journey.
- Ruminant (e.g. beef, lamb, goat, buffalo, etc.) materials, regardless if fresh, frozen, raw, cooked, dried, soups, bouillon, canned, sausages, home-made sauces containing meat, beef-flavoured instant noodles, etc., are not allowed from Canada.
- Pet foods and pet treats containing animal-origin (e.g. beef, lamb, chicken, fish, liver, etc.) meat, meat flavour, minerals or vitamins, regardless if dry, canned or fresh are not allowed unless the package is still unopened and the label on the bag or can shows it is of U.S. origin (made in USA).
- Uncooked poultry products that are not in a commercial package (i.e. from a grocery store) are not allowed from Canada; cooked poultry products including poultry-flavoured instant noodles are allowed from Canada, but are not allowed from many other countries.
- Hunter-harvested wild game is allowed with a valid hunting permit, subject to USDA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife restrictions.
- Pork from Canada is allowed, up to 50 lbs per importation.
- Canadian cheese and milk are allowed.

FISH AND SEAFOOD

- Fish and seafood products (e.g. tinned tuna, tinned salmon and smoked salmon) are allowed.
- Live fish from Ontario and Québec is not allowed.

SEEDS, NUTS AND HERBAL MEDICINE

- Most nuts, seeds and spices for cooking or eating that have been roasted, boiled, shelled, split or ground are allowed. Peanuts must be roasted or boiled. Cumin (Jerra) must be ground. Lentils (Lens sp.) must be split.
- Raw nuts and seeds for eating that were grown in Canada or the United States are allowed.
- Herbal medicine containing dried citrus peel, sliced deer antler, or certain seeds are not allowed.

SEEDS FOR PLANTING

- A phytosanitary certificate, seed analysis certificate or seed export label is required. Some seeds are not allowed from all countries including Canada.

PLANTS:

- A phytosanitary certificate or greenhouse certification program label is required for all plants. Plants may be subject to special certifications and permits, especially fruit- and nut-bearing plants. Please check with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service or with the Canada Food Inspection Agency before you purchase these items if you intend to take them to the United States.
- Houseplants or plants for bedding are not allowed.
- Plants in soil from the Central Saanich region on Vancouver Island and from Newfoundland are not allowed.
- Citrus plants and most palms and bamboo plants are not allowed.

CUT FLOWERS AND GREENERY

- Cut flowers must be inspected for insects and diseases. Branches from fruit, nut or pine trees, laurel, cotton, hibiscus, grape and "lucky bamboo" are not allowed in cut flower arrangements.
- Fresh cut Christmas trees from British Columbia or Alberta are allowed into Washington State with a written receipt/declaration of origin. Christmas decorations from Canadian conifer branches under one-half (½) inch diameter are allowed.

LIVE ANIMALS AND BIRDS

- Dogs and cats must be healthy. Dogs also require current rabies certificates.
- Other live animals including birds and hatching eggs are subject to inspection to enter or re-enter the United States. Contact the U.S. Customs and Border Protection before you travel.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

- Wines, spirits, beer and other alcoholic beverages are allowed, whether home-made or store-bought, subject to the same duty-free limits as any U.S. citizen returning home to the United States from a vacation abroad. The duty-free limit is 1L (litre) per legal-age adult. Additional quantities may be allowed subject to paying the applicable low-cost duty.

CIGARS

- Cuban-origin cigars and other Cuban-origin tobacco products are not allowed even for personal use or to be used as a gift.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION

- Prescription medication, for your own personal use, may be allowed provided the quantity does not exceed what you would normally take for the number of days you will be in the United States (e.g. a three-month supply if you will be in the U.S. for three months). Please note, however, that the individual U.S. border inspector does have the discretion to not allow foreign-obtained medication into the United States regardless if it is for your personal use or not. It is a discretionary decision.
- All medication must be in its original pharmacy-issued packaging with dispensary label intact showing your name and other pertinent information. Do not consolidate medication in larger single containers to save space.
- If you require a variety of different prescription and non-prescription medications, it may be helpful to carry a physician's note explaining your condition and your daily medication routine.
- U.S. Customs limits the transportation of over-the-counter medications that contain controlled substances, such as codeine, to 50 dosage units regardless of your medical condition or the time you will be in the United States.
- If you have any questions as to whether a specific medication may be imported into the United States, please contact the FDA, Division of Import Operations and Policy, at (301) 443-6553.
- If you have any questions regarding the importation of a controlled substance into the United States, please contact the Drug Enforcement Administration, Office of Diversion Control, International Drug Unit, at (202) 307-2414.

OUTDOOR ARTICLES AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

- Please inspect and clean items that are used or stored out-of-doors such as boats (aquatic weeds), firewood (boring and engraving beetles), RV's (Gypsy Moth eggs) and outdoor furniture before bringing them into the United States.

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Commitment, Service and Advocacy for Travellers
The voice of travelling Canadians

The Canadian Snowbird Association is a national not-for-profit advocacy organization dedicated to actively defending and improving the rights and privileges of travelling Canadians.