



**Ascension Island Government
Conservation and Fisheries Directorate**

BIOSECURITY

Guidelines for Importers of plant material

These guidelines accompany the import health standard for the importation of PLANT MATERIAL into Ascension Island.

Live plant material imported can be potentially damaging in two ways. Firstly, plant species new to the island could be invasive and become a weed on protected and residential areas. Secondly, plant material can harbour pests and diseases which affect beneficial plants or Ascension endemic species. These standards are designed to minimise both of these risks.

- Commercially-packaged seeds and cut flowers that meet the requirements of the import health standard **DO NOT** require a 'licence to import'.
- All other importations into Ascension of eligible plant material require a licence. Refer to import health standard to find out what is eligible plant material.
- The import health standards defined on the licence will depend on the species of plant, the nature of the material you want to import, and the country of origin.
- All consignments of plant material must meet the specified import health standards and any other additional requirements outlined on the licence. This could require testing for diseases which may also take time before the consignment is passed for export.
- The necessary licence must be obtained before the goods leave the country of export. Any application must therefore be made at least 28 days before the goods are scheduled to depart.
- Some consignments may require a phytosanitary certificate from recognised authority in the country of origin.
- All plant material must be free of live invertebrates, soil, compost or other organic growing material on arrival in Ascension.
- All plant material must be clearly labelled and packaged in a way that excludes pests. Commercially prepared material must be in the original, unopened packaging.
- It is your responsibility to make sure the supplier or packer has a copy of the import health standard and that plant material meets these conditions.
- On arrival the consignment may be inspected by a Biosecurity Officer.
- If any biosecurity issues are found on inspection, the consignment may either be reconsigned or destroyed at the importer's expense.
- Further information can be obtained from:

Biosecurity Officer
Ascension Island Conservation and Fisheries Directorate
Georgetown
Ascension Island, ASCN 1ZZ
Tel/Fax: 00 247 66359
Email: biosecurity@ascension.gov.ac