



Quick Guide - How To Import Seeds To The USA Particularly Plumeria Seeds

This subject was discussed years ago among Plumeria people but may have been forgotten - plus there are so many new Plumeria people who may not know this information and many new Plumeria seed sellers around the world. Recently, people have been purchasing Plumeria seeds and having them confiscated by the USDA because they are not arriving here legally or within the USDA requirements. It is best that we know the rules and regulations so this doesn't happen.

This article will guide you through importing Plumeria seeds (and other seeds) into the USA. It is only a guide to get you started. Please do all your due diligence. You can email USDA here: plantproducts.permits@aphis.usda.gov
We make no guarantees that your seeds will be delivered but these tips will give you the best chance.

Getting started:

Head over to the USDA (Dept. of Agriculture) site and read about "Small Lot of Seeds". It may seem complicated, but it is pretty clear on what and how much you can import into the USA **without** a Phytosanitary Certificate. Here is the link:
<http://tinyurl.com/jwmlwhn>

The page states that you can import – 50 seeds per packet and a total of 50 packets – that's 2500 seeds without a Phytosanitary Certificate. The catch is that they must be packaged in 50 seeds **or less** packets and the packets can weigh no more than **10 grams per packet**. Depending on the weight of the Plumeria seeds, they may need to be packaged in smaller lots than 50 seeds each. Your seed distributor can weigh them and pack them accordingly.

Reading through this page, you will see that you need to apply for an **Import Permit - PPQ 587 Application for permit to import plants or plant products**. This is a requirement to import seeds and plants into the USA. You can get a copy of that permit form here: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/library/forms/pdf/PPQ587.pdf>

The form is a fillable PDF – so you can fill it out online and print it, then date and sign it. Read the instructions on page two. Basically, they go like this:

Fill out the form with your name, address, city, state and other required information. No P.O. boxes. Don't leave anything out. The person applying for the permit must sign the permit.

The columns: The first column asks for the “Country of Origin” – where are your seeds coming from? Now a days, most are coming from Thailand, but list any country you may plan to purchase from.

The second column asks for the plant's specific name that you are importing. For Plumeria you need the scientific name: *Apocynacea-Plumeria*. You can also list any other types of seeds your may be buying like Adenium seeds, etc. but make sure to use the scientific name. Use a separate line for each different seed or plant. Here is what the USDA shows for Plumerias on their Plant Profile page:<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=PLUME>

The next column asks for the type of plant you want to import whether it be cuttings, seeds, bulbs, etc. List what you think you might import. Right now you want to import seeds, but you may want to import cuttings in the future, so list that as well. Cover yourself now or you will have to get another permit.

The next column asks what Port of Entry into the USA you will be receiving your import. You can specify what port of entry you want or type “N/A” and the USDA will list the approved ports. They will show those ports when you receive your official permit. Here is a link to the USDA plant inspection entry ports: <http://tinyurl.com/nz6u2lq>

Once you've got all your plants for import listed, go to the bottom and fill in the specific information pertinent to you.

The first box is your intended use. Usually, the first two boxes are checked. You want to use the imported material for plant stock and for seeds.

Next they want to know how you will receive the imported materials. You most likely will receive them by USPS mail. If you are planning on visiting the import country, you may want to also check the “Personal Baggage or Car” box.

Print out your form. Then sign and date your it. The person applying for the permit must be the signer of the form. Then make a copy for yourself for your files and send the original off to the address listed on the second page. There is no cost for this permit.

When you receive your official Import Permit, it will show your permit number and other information for importing. Check it over for correctness. You should also get several green/yellow stickers which then must be placed on the outside of the package from your seed provider before shipping from the originating country to the USA.

Depending on how often you will order from your seed provider, you will need to mail a sticker to him for every 50 packets or less of seeds you order and a photo copy (all pages) of your official Import Permit for his files. He then will affix the green/yellow sticker to the outside of your package. Don't send them all to him since you may want to buy from different seed providers.

You might also send him a stick on label with your name and address in case the USDA decides to open your package for inspection. This address label should be placed inside the package with your seed shipment by the seed provider.

Upon arrival in the USA, the USDA will check your Import Permit sticker and look up your permit. If all is correct, your seeds should have no problem getting to your mailbox.

It sounds like a complicated process, but once done you are set to purchase Plumeria seeds from your favorite countries without the seed provider having to get a Phytosanitary Certificate each time which may cost you more money and cost him extra time.

We hope this helps you and you grow beautiful Plumeria seed from around the world! Remember this is a guide so use it accordingly.

Compliments of: Michele Wilcox, [Valley Of The Sun Plumeria Society](#) © 2015

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