

**Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)**  
**Plant Biosecurity Index (PBI) database**  
(compulsory to New Zealand customers only)

We hope that we have accurately and understandably compiled all relevant information given below. However if any inquiry, doubt or uncertainty should arise, please do not hesitate to contact us - we want you to receive your order as soon as possible and to keep the bureaucratic workload to a minimum for you !

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Flower and plant seeds may be imported to New Zealand a) **without a phytosanitary certificate** and b) **without an import permit** if they do not require a risk assessment and/or special treatment upon arrival. The full procedure for importing seeds is given on this page:

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/importing/plants/seeds-for-sowing/>

The full legal text concerning seeds for sowing can be downloaded from this page:

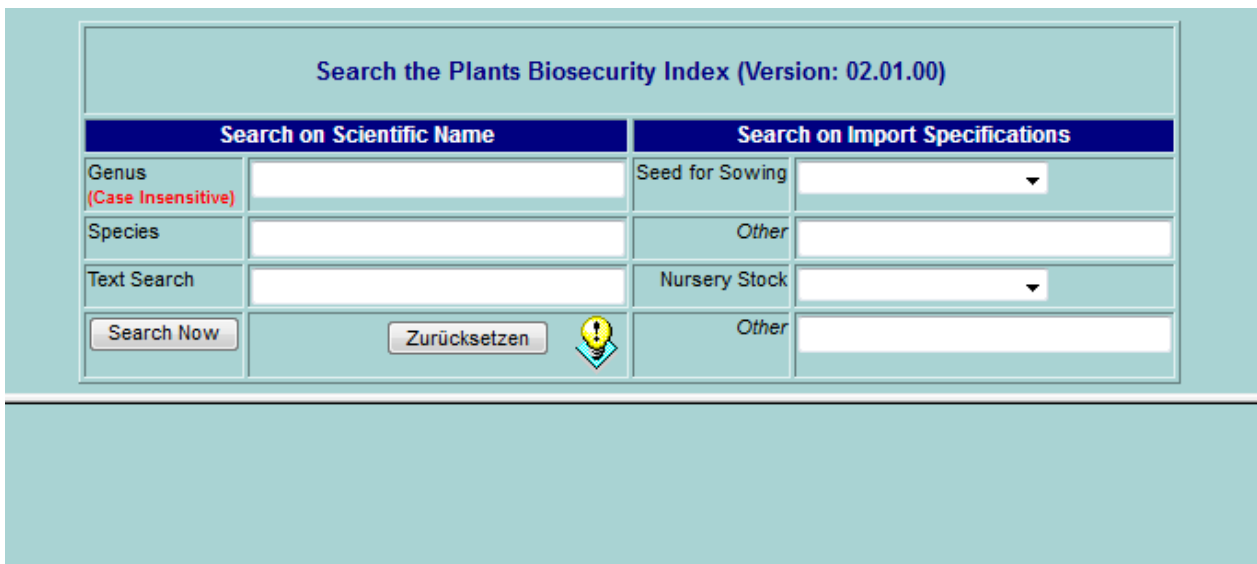
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/1151-seeds-for-sowing-import-health-standard>

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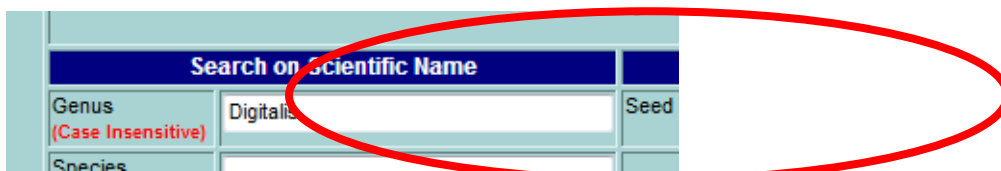
**How to get started**

Prior to ordering any seeds from our webshop, kindly check the species's status in the Plant Biosecurity Index database:

<https://www1.maf.govt.nz/cgi-bin/bioindex/bioindex.pl>



The easiest way to check the status is to enter the genus' name only in the upper left field, for example the genus "Digitalis" (foxgloves):




The result will display a list of all recorded species from the PBI database. In the case of the genus “Digitalis”, the search result will be the following:

Search the Plants Biosecurity Index (Version: 02.01.00)		
Search on Scientific Name		Search on Import Specifications
Genus	Digitalis	Seed for Sowing
Species		Other
Text Search		Nursery Stock
Search Now	Zurücksetzen	Other

MPI Biosecurity Index Search Results		
There are 23 results matching your search query		
Scientific Name	Import Specification Seed for Sowing	Import Specification Nursery Stock
Digitalis alba	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis ambigua (= Digitalis grandiflora)		
Digitalis ciliata	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis deviana	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis dubia	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis ferruginea	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis grandiflora	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis laevigata	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis lamarckii	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis lanata	Basic	Requires assessment
Digitalis lutea	Basic	Requires assessment

The first column lists all species found in the database, the second column provides some import specifications for seeds for sowing of a particular species. The third column is for nursery stock (i.e. plants) only and does not apply to seeds.

### A) Permitted species

In the case of seeds from “Digitalis grandiflora” the specification is for example “Basic”:

Digitalis grandiflora	Basic
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“Basic” means that seeds of this particular species are **permitted entry** without a phytosanitary certificate and without an import permit. Officially, on arrival in New Zealand, the consignment must be inspected at the importers expense. However, and as outlined by one New Zealand customer, it appears that at present the inspection at least of small seed packages is not charged with any fee and thus it is free for the importer.

We cannot predict if there may be any future changes in not charging fees for the inspection of small seed packages, thus if in doubt, kindly contact MPI officers in order not to have unpleasant surprises:  
[plantimports@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:plantimports@mpi.govt.nz)

### B) Prohibited species

If the result in the second column of the PBI database is not “Basic” but one of the following, seeds **cannot** be shipped:

see 155.02.05 under _X_	Seed can be imported according to 'X' section in the IHS, Part 2. (155.02.05 refers to the <i>Seeds for sowing</i> IHS).
Requires assessment	Seed can't be imported – you can ask MPI about having the seed assessed by emailing <a href="mailto:plantimports@mpi.govt.nz">plantimports@mpi.govt.nz</a>
Entry prohibited	Seed can't be imported – to import a new species that isn't listed in the PBI, apply to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval.
Blank (no result)	Usually happens when a synonym has been used – for example, <i>Abelia grandiflora</i> instead of <i>Abelia xgrandiflora</i> . Search using the synonym ( <i>Abelia xgrandiflora</i> ) to get requirements.



For example in the case of “Helianthus” (sunflowers) the results are:

Search the Plants Biosecurity Index (Version: 02.01.00)

Search on Scientific Name		Search on Import Specifications	
Genus <small>(Case Insensitive)</small>	Helianthus	Seed for Sowing	<input type="text"/>
Species		Other	<input type="text"/>
Text Search		Nursery Stock	<input type="text"/>
		Other	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Search Now"/> <input type="button" value="Zurücksetzen"/>			

**MPI Biosecurity Index Search Results**

There are 8 results matching your search query.

Scientific Name	Import Specification Seed for Sowing	Import Specification Nursery Stock
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	<a href="#">see 155.02.05 under Helianthus</a>	<a href="#">Requires assessment</a>
<i>Helianthus ciliaris</i>	<a href="#">Entry prohibited</a>	<a href="#">Entry prohibited</a>
<i>Helianthus debilis</i>	<a href="#">see 155.02.05 under Helianthus</a>	<a href="#">Requires assessment</a>
<i>Helianthus laetiflorus</i> (= <i>Helianthus xlaetiflorus</i> )		
<i>Helianthus multiflorus</i>	<a href="#">see 155.02.05 under Helianthus</a>	<a href="#">Requires assessment</a>
<i>Helianthus scaberrimus</i>	<a href="#">see 155.02.05 under Helianthus</a>	<a href="#">Requires assessment</a>
<i>Helianthus tuberosus</i>	<a href="#">see 155.02.05 under Helianthus</a>	<a href="#">L2 see 155.02.05 under Helianthus</a>
<i>Helianthus xlaetiflorus</i>	<a href="#">see 155.02.05 under Helianthus</a>	<a href="#">L2 see 155.02.05 under Helianthus</a>

This means that seeds from all *Helianthus* species are either prohibited entry or they need a special (extremely cost intensive) treatment upon arrival plus a phytosanitary certificate.

Also, if there is no match in the database for a particular species you are looking for, then seeds cannot be shipped either.

For example, there is no record for “*Digitalis minor*” in the PBI database and thus seeds are not allowed entry:

Search the Plants Biosecurity Index (Version: 02.01.00)

Search on Scientific Name		Search on Import Specifications	
Genus <small>(Case Insensitive)</small>	Digitalis	Seed for Sowing	<input type="text"/>
Species	minor	Other	<input type="text"/>
Text Search		Nursery Stock	<input type="text"/>
		Other	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Search Now"/> <input type="button" value="Zurücksetzen"/>			

**MPI Biosecurity Index Search Results**

There were 0 records found matching your search criteria.  
Please try entering alternative data, or check your spelling.

Scientific Name	Import Specification Seed for Sowing	Import Specification Nursery Stock

## Other information of interest

We will visually control all seeds before packing them in order to ensure that they are free of pests (mold, etc.) and that they are as free from inert plant debris (e.g. dry flower petals) as possible and as required by MPI import conditions. If we may find that a particular seed lot has caught mold during storage, we will notify the customer and give a full refund of the purchase price for this item. Several recalcitrant seeds have to be stored slightly moist in order not to lose viability. These seeds are prone to superficial mold, which does not harm the seeds nor does it have any negative effect on germination, nonetheless MPI officers will discard them and thus we will omit these.

All our shipments will include a commercial invoice with all included seed packages identified down to species level. All seeds are packed into transparent plastic zip lock bags and are labelled with the species name and seed quantity to make it easier for MPI officers to inspect these.

A customs' slip will be attached outside the package stating as contents “Seeds from ornamental plants – permitted species”.

*Information supplied as of 06 March 2018.*

