



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

# AQIS Plant Introduction Form

## ***"Why have I been asked to fill in this form?"***

AQIS regulates all plant material imported into Australia. Each year, AQIS receives a large number of applications to import various plant species from all over the world. Many of these species have been imported before and AQIS has developed import conditions to enable their safe introduction. These species and their import conditions are contained in the AQIS electronic quarantine database – ICON ([www.aqis.gov.au/icon](http://www.aqis.gov.au/icon)).

AQIS regulates plant imports by way of a permitted list, which was formally adopted on the 7th July 1998. When an importer submits an application to import propagative material (seed or nursery stock) of a species that is not contained in ICON (or is listed in ICON as "prohibited until assessed"), AQIS forwards this information to Plant Biosecurity who conducts an assessment of the species. Plant Biosecurity Australia develops appropriate import conditions before the species can be imported and released from quarantine.

The agreed pre-entry screening method for new plant imports is called the Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) system. The WRA system is used on all new plant imports whether they enter Australia as seeds, nursery stock or tissue culture and regardless of country of origin.

## ***"How do I fill in the form?"***

In most cases, you will need to complete a separate AQIS Plant Introduction Form for each species requiring assessment. However, where there are different species or varieties that are very similar, you may place them on the same form. Environment Australia as well as a wide range of client groups endorsed this system of assessment. The implementation of the WRA system is a component of the National Weed Strategy and was funded in part by monies arising from the Natural Heritage Trust.

## ***"Why should I bother?"***

If you have been asked to complete the AQIS Plant Introduction Form, you should note that it is in your best interests to fill in the form as accurately and completely as possible. AQIS receives many applications to import plant species that require assessment and this assessment represents a significant demand on AQIS's resources. Import applications accompanied by an AQIS Plant Introduction Form that is properly filled in can be assessed more quickly.

This form is used to gain information on the general growth characteristics of the species and also to determine whether the plant possesses certain attributes, which could increase the likelihood of it becoming a weed in Australia. Based on the assessment of the information provided, AQIS will either (a) permit the plant to be imported subject to certain

conditions, (b) refuse permission for the plant to be imported, or (c) require further assessment of the species while in quarantine.

Plants that are already present in Australia, either widely distributed or commercially available in significant quantities in Australia, still require assessment, but the final result will take the occurrence in Australia into account.

The form consists of four parts - Sections A, B, C, and D. You must complete all four sections. Where you are required to complete forms for more than one species you may complete Section A (Applicant's Details) on just one form only.

Use the "Don't know" box as little as possible so that AQIS does not have to ask you to provide further information. Also, feel free to clarify or qualify your answers by writing comments anywhere on the form.

Finally, make sure all written answers and comments are printed **neatly** and **clearly**.

### ***"Is there any other information that I should provide?"***

**Yes, references will help the speed of the assessment!** As part of the assessment process, AQIS/Plant Biosecurity must verify the accuracy of your responses on the form. Information from independent sources that substantiates your responses will facilitate this and will reduce the assessment time accordingly.

Independent sources include papers from scientific journals, botanical textbooks and gardening books. Also of use would be information supplied by botanical gardens, CSIRO, departments of agriculture or universities etc. AQIS will also accept information from independent sources overseas such as foreign government authorities and universities. Information from these sources must be supplied on the official letterhead of the organisation concerned.

Remember - **the more information you supply**, the less research Plant Biosecurity must do and **the shorter the assessment time**.

### ***"What do I do with the completed form?"***

Completed form and additional information should be sent to:

Plant Quarantine Imports  
Plant Programs Branch  
AQIS  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

or Fax: 02 6272 3745

AQIS will then advise you of the outcome of the assessment.

# AQIS New Plant Introduction Form

## Section A

### Applicant's Details

A1. Applicant's Name: .....

A2. Company/Organisation: .....

A3. Telephone Number: .....

A4. Fax Number: .....

A5. Postal Address: .....

.....

.....

.....

A6. Seizure Number: .....

(On accompanying letter if applicable)

## Section B

B1. Genus: .....

B2. Species: .....

B3. Common Name(s): .....

B4. Family: .....

B5. Variety/Cultivar: .....

B6. Are there other varieties or cultivars, how many: .....

B7. What plant form(s) do you wish to import?  seeds

(Tick more than one, if applicable)

tissue cultures

whole plants, cuttings, bulbs etc

**B8.** What countries do you wish to import the plant from?  
.....  
.....

**B9.** Is the plant present in Australia?  Yes (Go to B 10)  No (Go to Section C)  Don't know (Go to Section C)

**B10.** Is the plant native to Australia?  Yes (Go to Section C)  No (Go to B11)  Don't know (Go to B11)

**B11.** Is the plant deliberately grown in Australia?  Yes (Go to B11)  No (Go to B13)  Don't know (Go to B13)

**B12.** For what purpose(s) is the plant grown in Australia? (Tick more than one, if applicable)

- indoor ornamental
- outdoor ornamental
- fruit/vegetable crop
- medicinal/homeopathic
- botanical\collector specimen (Go to B13)
- land reclamation
- pasture
- animal feed
- other (please specify) .....

**B13.** What is the plant's distribution in Australia?  
.....  
.....  
(Go to B14)

**B14.** Is the plant commercially available in Australia?  Yes (Go to B15)  No (Go to Section C)  Don't know (Go to Section C)

**B15.** What Australian suppliers is the plant available from?

- Name:..... Tel:.....
- Name:..... Tel:.....
- Name:..... Tel:.....
- Name:..... Tel:.....

## Section C

- C1.** Is the plant...  annual  biennial  perennial  
(Tick more than one, if applicable)  
 erect  prostrate  climbing
- C2.** To do what dimensions does the plant grow?.....
- C3.** Does the plant produce...  bulbs  corms  stolons  
(Leave blank if none apply)  
 tubers  rhizomes  thorns
- C4.** Is the plant a..  tree  vine  palm  
(Tick more than one, if applicable)  
 shrub  creeper  fern  
 herb  grass  sedge  
 succulent  bamboo  epiphyte  
 cactus  aquatic  legume (nitrogen fixer)  
 woody  herb  carnivorous plant
- C5.** Does the plant naturally form new plants from vegetative fragments (rhizomes, suckers, stolons etc)?  Yes  No  Don't know
- C6.** How are the propagules (seed, seed pods, fruit, viable vegetative fragments) likely to be dispersed? (Tick more than one, if applicable)  
 wind  by being eaten by animals  
 water  on the bodies of birds  
 insects  on the bodies of animal  
 by being eaten by birds  other (please specify)
- C7.** Does the plant grow in rivers, lakes or ponds?  Yes  No  Don't know  
If 'Yes' is the plant a free-floating (surface submerged) aquatic or can it survive as one?  
 Yes  No  Don't know

**C8.** What climate is the plant adapted to?

- tropical  cold temperate  
 sub-tropical  arid  
 warm temperate (Mediterranean)  other (please specify).....

**C9.** What is the native habitat of the plant?

- rainforest  grassland  swamp, marshland  
 wet temperate forest  coastal  alpine  
 dry temperate forest  river, lake, pond  other (please specify)

**C10.** What countries and/or geographical regions is the plant native to?

.....  
.....

**C11.** Has the plant had a history of repeated introductions outside its native region?  Yes  No  Don't know

If you ticked "Yes", list the countries the plant has been introduced to.

.....

**C12.** Is the plant native to or naturalised in areas with rainfall of less than 25 mm in the driest quarter of the year?  Yes  No  Don't know

**C13.** Has the plant been effectively controlled using herbicides in situations where the plant has become undesirable?  Yes  No  Don't know

**C14.** Does the plant suppress the growth of other plants?  Yes  No  Don't know

**C15.** Is the plant parasitic on other plants?  Yes  No  Don't know

If you ticked "Yes", list the species the plant is parasitic on.....

**C16.** Has the plant species or any of its races or  gardens?

sub-species become weeds in...

- disturbed ground (e.g. roadsides)?
- crops? (please specify).....
- pastures?
- terrestrial ecosystems?
- aquatic ecosystems?
- other? (please specify).....

**C17.** Is the plant affected by or host to any pests or diseases?

- Yes       No       Don't know

If you ticked "**Yes**", list the pests and diseases.....

.....

**C18.** Are there any factors (predators, diseases, climatic conditions etc) in the plant's native habitat that substantially reduce its reproductive capacity?

- Yes       No       Don't know

If you ticked "**Yes**", list the factors.

.....

**C19.** Does the plant have any effective natural enemies (predators, pests, diseases) in Australia?

- Yes       No       Don't know

If you ticked "**Yes**", list the natural enemies.

.....

**C20.** Is the plant tolerant of shade at any stage of its life-cycle?

- Yes       No       Don't know

**C21.** Is the plant tolerant of infertile soils?

- Yes       No       Don't know

**C22.** Does the plant have a climbing or smothering growth habit?

- Yes       No       Don't know

**C23.** Does the plant form dense thickets or colonies?

- Yes       No       Don't know

**C24.** Does the growth habit of the plant create a fire hazard in natural ecosystems?

- Yes       No       Don't know

**C25.** Does the plant produce viable seed?  Yes  No  Don't know

If you ticked "**Yes**", can the plant produce more than 2000 viable seeds per square metre under natural conditions?

Yes  No  Don't know

**C26.** Does the plant hybridise with other species without assistance under natural conditions?  Yes  No  Don't know

**C27.** Is the plant able to produce viable seed without cross-pollination?  Yes  No  Don't know

If you ticked "**No**", what is the pollinating agent?

- wind
- insects (please specify).....
- birds (please specify).....
- animals (please specify).....
- other (please specify).....

**C28.** What is the minimum time from germination to the production of viable seed or the time taken for a vegetatively propagated plant to duplicate itself? .....

**C29.** Are the propagules(seed, seed pods, fruit, viable vegetative fragments) buoyant?  Yes  No  Don't know

**C30.** Do the propagules remain viable after being eaten and excreted by animals and/or birds?  Yes  No  Don't know

**C31.** Do more than 1% of the propagules remain viable after more than 1 year in the soil?  Yes  No  Don't know

**C32.** Has the plant been selected for any specific traits? (Tick more than one, if applicable)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> herbicide tolerance   | <input type="checkbox"/> pest tolerance/resistance<br><small>(virus, bacteria, fungus, nematode, insects)</small>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> production of toxic substances<br><small>(poisons, pesticides)</small>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental enhancement<br><small>(drought tolerant, salt resistant, heavy metal tolerant, hard seededness, growth in infertile soils)</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> enhanced growth characters<br><small>(increased fruiting, increasing seeding, faster growth rate)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> other.....   |

If you ticked a box please describe the selection: .....

.....

**C33.** Has the plant been registered with Plant Breeders Rights?  Yes  No  Don't know

## Section D

### Applicant's Declaration

The information that I have provided on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.

.....  
(Signature of applicant)

.....  
(Full name of applicant)

...../...../.....  
(Date)

Please return the completed form to:  Plant Quarantine Imports Plant Programs Branch AQIS GPO Box 858 CANBERRA ACT 2601  OR FAX: 02 6272 3745
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***Don't forget to attach additional information from independent sources.***