



Australian Government

Biosecurity Australia

18 December 2006

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/38
PERMITTED SEEDS LIST REVIEW COMPLETED**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum informs stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia has completed the Permitted Seeds List Review, including replacing genus-level listings with species that are reported to be in Australia. The new arrangements come into effect on 20 December 2006.

Biosecurity Australia has finalised the review of the list of plant seeds that are permitted entry to Australia (Schedule 5 of *Quarantine Proclamation 1998*, also known as the 'permitted seeds list'). The review involved replacing 2,913 genus-level listings that were on the permitted seeds list with the species within those genera that are already present in Australia.

The permitted seeds list has been amended to reflect the results of Biosecurity Australia's review of plant seeds allowed into Australia and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has updated its import conditions database (ICON) accordingly. The new list is available on ICON at www.aqis.gov.au/icon.

The review of the permitted seeds list is intended to protect Australia's favourable pest and disease-free status by preventing the importation of exotic weedy species.

In conducting the review Biosecurity Australia complied with Australia's international obligations by ensuring that species already present in Australia and not under official control were not prohibited. Biosecurity Australia has also consulted extensively with stakeholders throughout the review.

The removal of genus-level entries is not a permanent exclusion of species not currently included on the Permitted Seeds List. Importers can approach AQIS and seek a Weed Risk Assessment on any plant species to determine its weed risk to Australia's agriculture and/or the environment. If the assessment concludes that the weed potential is low and there are no other quarantine concerns, the species can be added to the Permitted Seeds List and imports allowed.

If a species from within a previously permitted genus is not included on the revised list, and is later found to be present in Australia, it can also be permitted entry without the need for a weed risk assessment.

Biosecurity Australia has appreciated the input to the review provided by a wide range of stakeholders including the Nursery and Garden Industry Association, the Australian Seeds Federation, nurseries, co-operative research centres, R&D corporations, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), individuals, and State and Commonwealth government departments.

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