

# Import quarantine aims to save plants from overseas pests



All plants and plant products imported using cargo, hand-carried baggage, or postal mail or package are subject to import quarantine regardless of their quantity or intended use (i.e., commercial or personal use). Importers or travelers are legally required to attach the Phytosanitary Certificate issued by the government of the exporting country for plants and plant products. (Some plants and plant products are exempted from carrying the Phytosanitary Certificate.)

## Import quarantine procedures



## Cargo inspection at seaports

Cargo inspection is conducted at seaports of entry. Bulk cargo ships carry grains, fruits, vegetables, and wood, while container ships deal with fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, bulbs, seeds, and pre-owned agricultural machinery, among other materials and goods.



In-ship grain inspection



Inspection of fruits transported by container ships

## Cargo inspection at airports

Cargo inspection is also conducted at airports of entry. Air cargo usually carries cut flowers, seedlings, bulbs, fruits, and vegetables, among other plant materials. A large variety of small-lot shipments may be imported as samples by air cargo prior to full-scale import.



Inspection of cut flowers



Inspection of seedlings



## Inspection of hand-carried baggage

Plants and plant products, such as fruits and vegetables, in the hand-carried baggage of travelers entering Japan are also subjected to inspections. The inspection is conducted at plant quarantine counters located in the customs area, prior to customs clearance. Animal and plant quarantine detector dogs are actively deployed for inspections.



Plant quarantine counter



Animal and plant quarantine detector dog

## Inspection of international postal items

Imported plants and plant products are inspected at post offices where customs clearance of international mail is carried out. Animal and plant quarantine detector dogs are also actively deployed.



Inspection of seedlings of succulent plants

## Inspection of seeds and seedlings

Seeds and seedlings may be infected with diseases that cannot be detected by visual inspection alone, so detailed inspections using the blotter method and genetic diagnostic method are also performed in the testing room.



Inspection through the blotter method

## Post-entry inspection

Imported seeds and seedlings, such as flower bulbs, fruit tree seedlings/scions, and potatoes, for which viruses are difficult to detect by inspection alone undergo post-entry quarantine. The post-entry quarantine involves cultivation for a certain period of time at specific sites; this is managed by the national authority and isolated from other crops.



Sap inoculation



Quarantine greenhouse

## Quarantine inspections are supported by sophisticated identification and diagnostic technologies

As there are numerous different pests in the world, it is a vital part of plant quarantine to accurately classify (i.e. identify) the pests detected in inspections.

Various efforts are made to improve the overall level of identification skills. Plant Protection Station archives specimens of the domestic and overseas pests that are collected in inspections. Furthermore, supporting materials for pest identification are developed for the use of plant protection officers; based on these, particular training courses are provided.

