

Mexican Land Border Import Guide: Agricultural Items for Personal Use

Are you crossing the border from Mexico into the United States? If so, are you carrying any meats, fruits, vegetables, living plant material, soil, live animals, or plant and animal products? Be aware of such items because you may unknowingly be carrying damaging plant and animal pests and diseases that pose a major threat to U.S. food crops and livestock.

As a traveler, you must declare upon entry into the United States any agricultural items to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Failure to declare agricultural items contained in your baggage, hand luggage, or vehicle—regardless of origin—may cause travel delays and result in spot fines of up to \$1,000.

The following is a partial list of fruits and vegetables that are allowed entry into the United States from Mexico for personal consumption, **but only after they have passed inspection and have been found free of any pests or diseases:**

- Aloe vera leaves
- Avocados—without seeds (no avocados are admitted into California)
- Bananas
- Berries (blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, and strawberries)
- Cabbage
- Corn and corn smut galls
- Dates
- Garlic
- Grapes
- Herbs (cilantro, mint, rosemary, sage, and watercress)
- Jicama
- Lemons, Persian limes, and sour limes—all lemons/limes must be washed; no leaves or stems
- Lettuce and spinach
- Melons (cantaloupe, honeydew, and watermelon)
- Nuts (acorns, almonds, cocoa beans, chestnuts, coconuts [without husks or milk], peanuts, pecans, piñon [pinenut], and walnuts)
- Onions (including green onions and chives)
- Peppers (bell, chili, and jalapeno peppers; manzano peppers are **not** allowed)

- Pineapples
- Potatoes, yams, and sweet potatoes (cooked only)
- Prickly pears (nopales pad or tuna fruit; pitaya are **not** allowed)
- Sugarcane “chews”—peeled without nodes
- Tamarind bean pods
- Tomatoes and tomatillos

This list of admissible products is subject to change. For more information or for a complete list, please visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) online fruit and vegetable import requirements database at www.aphis.usda.gov/favir. Under the “Country” search, type “Mexico” and select a particular commodity for more information. Open the Commodity Import Report (CIR) to see the detailed import requirements for the item selected.

Live Plants and Seeds

Plants and seeds imported for propagation require a phytosanitary certificate from the Government of Mexico. The import of any soil is prohibited.

Meats and Animal Products

The following types of meats and animal products are allowed to be imported: canned shelf-stable pork, canned shelf-stable poultry, beef, and thoroughly cooked poultry. Other meats, animal products, animal trophies, and scientific or research samples may require an import permit, government certification, or transport to an APHIS-approved establishment for additional treatment to prevent the introduction of animal diseases. APHIS-approved establishments will treat materials against anthrax and other diseases.

Live Birds

To import pet or wild/game birds, please visit www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/ to obtain contact information for local USDA offices responsible for imported birds. All imported birds, including chickens, are subject to quarantine in a USDA facility.

Additional Information

Remember, you must declare all agricultural items, including fruits and vegetables, meat and animal products, live animals, plant and plant products, and seeds, even if the items are listed as admissible in this publication.

If you have any questions about importing a specific agricultural item into the United States, use the

information below to contact an APHIS technical specialist:

- For plants and plant products, including fruits and vegetables, call (301) 851-2046 or toll free at (877) 770-5990, or email permits@aphis.usda.gov.
- For soil, live plant pests, biological control agents, or noxious weeds, call (866) 524-5421, or email pest.permits@aphis.usda.gov.
- For animal products or byproducts, call (301) 851-3300, or email AskNCIE.Products@aphis.usda.gov.

In addition, APHIS' Web site contains a wealth of useful information for travelers at www.aphis.usda.gov/travel.

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