



## ADVISORY TO TRAVELLERS : CHANGES IN REGULATIONS ON BRINGING PLANTS INTO SINGAPORE FROM WEST MALAYSIA

The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) has revised the regulations on plants that can be brought into Singapore from West Malaysia. With effect from 1 Dec 2007, travellers can bring in up to three plants **without potting medium** or 250gm seeds or both (per person) from West Malaysia without an import permit from AVA and a plant health certificate (phytosanitary certificate).

### Current regulations

2 At present, travellers who bring in any plants or planting materials from overseas must obtain a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin to certify that the plants or plant products are pest free. However, travellers returning from West Malaysia are allowed to bring in up to three plants **with or without potting medium** or 250gm seeds or both (per person) without an AVA import permit and a phytosanitary certificate.

### Revision of regulations to safeguard Singapore's plant health

3 The regulations were revised to enhance current measures to safeguard the health of plants in Singapore and minimize the introduction of exotic pests and plant diseases.

4 Travellers bringing in plants from West Malaysia must ensure that the plants are free from potting medium such as soil, sphagnum moss, peat moss and potting mix (combination of potting medium) before they are brought into the country. This is because potting medium, if not properly treated, could harbour injurious microscopic worms which can cause poor growth and even death of the plants. These worms can multiply very quickly and spread to other healthy plants and will thus be detrimental to the plant health status of Singapore. It is a common international practice in many countries (eg. Australia, China, US and Europe) not to allow soil or potting medium into the country unless accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate.

5 Travellers who bring in plants in excess of the quantity allowed must obtain an import permit as well as a phytosanitary certificate. Travellers who violate the above regulations will have their plants confiscated and destroyed.

Enquiries

6 For further enquiries and information, travellers can visit AVA's website at [www.ava.gov.sg](http://www.ava.gov.sg) or contact AVA at 67519815.

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