

Some souvenirs can spell trouble.



Harmful organisms and diseases can be introduced via plants. For this reason, imports of plants, fruits, vegetables, flowers and seeds from outside the EU have been prohibited since 1 January 2020.

International travel and trade are the main pathways for the introduction of plant diseases and pests. The spread of harmful organisms (e.g. the Japanese beetle) and fungal or bacterial diseases can severely damage or even destroy plants in Switzerland.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN

Swiss Federal Plant Protection Service SPPS

Dear Passenger

Plants and parts of plants brought in from abroad may be contaminated with diseases and pests. For this reason, as in the EU, new legal restrictions on imports of plant material from outside the EU came into effect on 1 January 2020.

New regulations

It is prohibited to import plants, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds or other fresh plant material, soil or certain types of wood from non-EU countries, the Canary Islands, Ceuta, Melilla or French overseas territories to Switzerland.

After a customs check ("Goods to declare") by the Swiss Federal Plant Protection Service (SPPS), the import of plant material may be permitted, provided that it is accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin. High-risk goods (potatoes, soil, citrus leaves, etc.) are prohibited in all cases.

Exceptions

The only fruits which can still be brought into Switzerland from any other country without any checks are pineapples, coconuts, durians, bananas and dates.

Destruction

On arrival, passengers with prohibited plants or parts of plants can surrender them to Customs ("Goods to declare"), where they will be destroyed free of charge. If an SPPS inspection is required for the clearance or seizure of goods, the costs are to be borne by the passenger (handling charge according to the effort involved).

Plants and parts of plants may still be brought in from the EU (excluding the Canary Islands, Ceuta, Melilla and French overseas territories) without any checks.

Further information: www.plant-health.ch

Healthy cultivated and wild plants supply us with food and oxygen, protect against natural hazards, contribute to biodiversity and provide other vital services. By enjoying plants, fruits and other plant material in the country of origin – and not taking them home – international travellers can make an important contribution to the preservation of plant health.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
PLANT HEALTH

2020

THANK YOU !