

Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV)

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for setting the import conditions that must be met when importing seeds and live plant material into New Zealand. The import conditions are put in place to prevent new pests and diseases that may threaten New Zealand's environment, economy, or human health from entering New Zealand.

MPI have recently become aware that the plant disease Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV) is increasing in distribution and is causing severe yield losses in susceptible species (for example, squash, pumpkin and cucumber). Based on this information, MPI have changed the import conditions for a number of commonly imported cucurbit seeds.

The measures come into effect on 1 December 2014, so all members of the public and commercial importers will need to make sure that the seeds that they are importing meet the new import conditions.

A full list of the affected species and a summary of the new import conditions are included below.

What is Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus?

CGMMV is a destructive disease of cucurbits worldwide and can cause severe yield losses in varieties of Cucurbitaceae such as squash, pumpkin, cucumber and melon. The worldwide distribution of the disease is spreading with seed transmission on imported seed for sowing being one of the more likely entry pathways. CGMMV only infects plants, so is not a concern for animal or human health.

What are the changes to the import requirements?

Seed for sowing

The changes apply to seeds of – ***Cucurbitaceae***^{*} and ***Cucumis***.

- *Benincasa hispida*
- *Citrullus lanatus*
- *Cucurbita ficifolia*
- *Cucurbita lagenaria* (= *Lagenaria siceraria*)
- *Cucurbita maxima*
- *Cucurbita mixta*
- *Cucurbita moschata*
- *Cucurbita pepo*
- *Cucumis anguria*
- *Cucumis melo*
- *Cucumis metuliferus*
- *Cucumis myriocarpus*
- *Cucumis sativus*
- *Lagenaria siceraria*
- *Luffa acutangula*
- *Luffa aegyptiaca*
- *Luffa cylindrical*
- *Momordica charantia*

^{*} Current measures for genetically modified varieties of *C. pepo* in the 'Cucurbita pepo' schedule will also be incorporated into the Cucurbita schedule

A new schedule for 'Cucurbitaceae' will be added to the import health standard (IHS) 155.02.05: Importation of Seed for Sowing. The following measures for CGMMV will be required for imported Cucurbitaceae seed:

- Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus will be added as a quarantine pest.
- Testing of the seeds for CGMMV will be required, with the sample size specified (2000 seeds).

The import health standard (IHS) [155.02.05: Importation of Seed for Sowing \[PDF\]](#) was urgently amended, with full implementation of the measures on Monday 1 December 2014.

- Any consignment that arrives in New Zealand with certification issued on or after 1 December 2014, and without the required additional declarations on a phytosanitary certificate for CGMMV, will be held, and a sample collected and tested as required by the IHS for CGMMV at the MPI Plant Health & Environment Laboratory.

More information

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