



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

**North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**
Plant Industry Division

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DO YOU PLAN TO IMPORT TOBACCO TRANSPLANTS?

Tobacco growers who purchase tobacco transplants from a grower in another state are required by regulation to first obtain a TOBACCO PLANT IMPORT PERMIT (the application for an import permit is on the back of this sheet). There is no fee for the permit.

Only certified plants that have been inspected for diseases and insects may be imported. Using information provided on the permit application, NCDA&CS personnel will verify that the intended out-of-state source is under a certification program. To allow time for this, the application should be submitted as soon as plans are finalized. However, in emergency or unexpected situations, the application may be submitted by telephone up until the day of shipment. If an individual is responsible for importing plants and distributing them to others, he is the only one that must obtain a permit, not those that receive plants from him.

Each crate of plants must have an inspection certificate as well as a variety statement. Save these certificates and your invoice for documentation in case you discover problems later.

These requirements will not guarantee pest-free plants, but they are positive steps in the overall pest management program. Even certified plants may be infected with damaging diseases without showing symptoms until after they are transplanted. This is especially true of blue mold and virus infections. Also, the term "certification" is in regard to standards for plant pests, not quality, size, color and business practices. Make sure the plants are what you want before you buy them. If you have complaints about plant count, you may direct them to the NCDA&CS Standards Division at 919/733-3313.

When an individual chooses to bypass the permit system or purchase uncertified transplants, he may be putting the entire production area at risk, not just himself.

NCDA&CS Plant Protection Specialists routinely contact importers to conduct spot-checks of incoming shipments and to verify certification documentation. If you have additional questions, call Suzanne Spencer in Raleigh at 919/707-3754 or email her at suzanne.spencer@ncagr.gov.

(THE IMPORT PERMIT/APPLICATION IS ON THE NEXT PAGE)

TOBACCO PLANT IMPORT APPLICATION / PERMIT

Please make a copy of the completed application to keep for your files (both pages) then send the original to: Tobacco Plant Import Program, c/o Suzanne Spencer, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Plant Industry Division, 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1060. Telephone: 919/707-3754. FAX: 919/733-1041.

Name and Address of Applicant/Importer: _____

_____ County: _____

Telephone: _____; FAX: _____

Planting location (nearest town) if different from above: _____

If others will be receiving plants from this shipment, check here, and attach a list of their names and planting locations (nearest towns).

Number of plants to be imported: _____ Approximate date: _____

Name and Address of Out-of-State Transplant Grower: _____

_____ Telephone: _____

Reason for making application to import tobacco plants: _____

I am aware that this permit may be revoked at any time if it is determined that the plants do not meet the plant pest standards of the Tobacco Plant Certification Regulation. I am also aware that I must notify the Plant Industry Division Office indicated at top of this form if the information provided on this application changes.

Signature of Applicant/Importer (as listed above)

Date

TO BE COMPLETED BY STATE OFFICIALS

This Tobacco Plant Import Permit Application has been APPROVED. This signed copy will now serve as your Tobacco Plant Import Permit.

Phillip L. Wilson, Plant Pest Administrator

Date

Cc: _____ Importer

_____ Shipper with cover letter; Fax: _____

_____ SPRO: _____ with cover letter; Fax: _____

_____ Specialist: _____ with inspection report; _____ Michelle McGinnis