

RHODE ISLAND

SUMMARY OF PLANT PROTECTION REGULATIONS

Updated July, 2026

Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment
235 Promenade Street, Room 370
Providence, RI 02908
Phone: (401) 222-2781
Fax: (401) 222-6047

<https://dem.ri.gov/natural-resources-bureau/agriculture-and-forest-environment/agriculture/regulatory-services/nursery>

Matt Green..... State Plant Regulatory Official; Plant Industry Section Supervisor;
Nursery and Export Certification
Matt.Green@dem.ri.gov , Tel: 401-640-4542

Cynthia Kwolek.....CAPS State Survey Coordinator
Cynthia.Kwolek@dem.ri.gov , Tel: 401-949-1770

When required, notification of nursery stock shipments to Rhode Island should be sent to:
DEM.SPRO@dem.ri.gov

The information, as provided, is for informational purposes only and should not be interpreted as complete, nor should it be considered legally binding. Coordination with both your state and the destination state plant regulatory agency listed above may be necessary to stay up-to-date on revised requirements.

NURSERY STOCK DEFINITION

All hardy, deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines and other plants having a persistent woody stem whether wild or cultivated and plant parts thereof, for and capable of propagation.

Rhode Island Nursery Law
<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE2/2-18.1/INDEX.htm>

GENERAL SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS

All shipments of nursery stock into the state should be accompanied by a certificate of inspection issued by an authorized plant regulatory official or other evidence attesting to freedom from insects and diseases.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEEDS: All Federal Noxious Weeds are prohibited entry as designated by Federal Regulation in 7CFR Part 360—Noxious Weed Regulations:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/noxious-weeds>

PROHIBITED NOXIOUS WEED SEEDS: The sale of agricultural, vegetable or lawn seed containing any of the following prohibited noxious weed seeds is prohibited.

<i>Agropyron repens</i>	Quackgrass
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada Thistle
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Bindweed
<i>Cyperus spp.</i>	Nutgrass

Rules and Regulations under the Rhode Island State Seed Law (250-RICR-40-20-8)

<https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-40-20-8>

Rhode Island Seed Act RIGL

<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE2/2-6/INDEX.htm>

QUARANTINES OR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

WHITE PINE BLISTER RUST QUARANTINE

PEST: The fungus *Cronartium ribicola* which causes white pine blister rust.

STATES REGULATED: All

MATERIALS REGULATED: Plants of the genus *Ribes*.

RESTRICTIONS: *Ribes nigrum*, *R. odoratum* and *R. aureum* are prohibited in all parts of the state. Other *Ribes spp.* can be imported into, or transported or planted within, Rhode Island only after obtaining a permit from the RI DEM Division of Agriculture and Forest Environment.

Rules and Regulations Governing the Suppression of White Pine Blister Rust (250-RICR-40-10-

2) <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-40-10-2>

White Pine Blister Rust RIGL

<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE2/2-17/2-2/INDEX.htm>

ASIAN LONGHORNED BEETLE & EMERALD ASH BORER

PEST: The insects *Anoplophora glabripennis* and *Agrilus planipennis*.

STATES REGULATED: All

MATERIALS REGULATED: R.I.G.L. § 2-17-23 Regulated articles. – (a) Regulated articles shall mean any of the following raw wood materials taken or harvested from a quarantined area: any living, dead, standing, cut or fallen tree, inclusive of nursery stock, or any piece or portion thereof measuring a half inch or more in diameter, including any branches, logs, stumps, roots, or chips, firewood, or green lumber. Kiln-dried lumber and manufactured or finished wooden products are not considered regulated articles pursuant to § 2-17-22.

(b) Regulated articles shall also include any other article, regardless of its place of origin, found to be infested by the Asian longhorned beetle or emerald ash borer if an authorized state or federal inspector notifies the person in possession of the article that it is infested and therefore subject to the quarantine and transport rules or regulations of APHIS or the director of the department of environmental management.

(c) Regulated articles shall also include any other article designated as a regulated article pursuant to any duly promulgated amendments to the quarantine and transport rules or regulations of APHIS or the director of the department of environmental management.

RESTRICTIONS: R.I.G.L. § 2-17-22 Unlawful importation or transportation. – Any person importing into this state, or transporting from place to place within this state, contrary to quarantine and transport rules or regulations of the United States department of agriculture/animal and plant health inspection service (APHIS) or the director of the department of environmental management governing the Asian longhorned beetle or emerald ash borer, any regulated articles, as defined below in § 2-17-23, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) for each offense, assessed in accordance with chapter 42-17.6 and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.

Asian Longhorned Beetle & Emerald Ash Borer RIGL

<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE2/2-17/2-4/INDEX.htm>