

## **BRINGING ORCHIDS INTO CANADA FROM THE SINGAPORE WORLD ORCHID CONFERENCE, November 2011**

There are challenges to bringing plants back from the Singapore World Orchid Congress, including plant origin and cost. If the purchaser plans to travel through or visit other countries during the return trip, there could be additional challenges. It is strongly recommended that any orchids purchased are of Singapore origin and that appropriately worded documents (for Canadian import purposes) are certain to be available before making any purchase. You can determine who are Singapore vendors from the list posted on the WOC website. Contact those vendors beforehand to check this further.

Cost is a factor as you will note from the information provided below.

Note: These guidelines give the expected procedure for the Singapore event but prepare for the unexpected.

Here is what we anticipate you will need:

**1. A permit to import plants from CANADA (CFIA)**  
([www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/international/importe](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/international/importe)).

The import office NEEDS TO HAVE APPLICATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS IT WILL TAKE A FEW WEEKS TO OBTAIN YOUR PERMIT. You can send your completed application from the attached link, above. The permit office suggests that you identify what you propose to bring in at the scientific genus level, e.g. *Cattleya*, *Paphiopedilum*, *Vanda*, *Doritaenopsis*, etc. Common names like moth orchid are not accepted. The permit costs \$35 and takes about 2 weeks to get.

When you get the permit, it will **tell you the phytosanitary declarations that the Singapore officials must put on the Phytosanitary certificate. You will need to show this to Canadian officials at border when you come back.**

**2. CITES Import Permits from Environment Canada (Appendix I species only)**

If you are bringing back CITES Appendix 2 Orchids and orchid hybrids, you will NOT need a CITES Import Permit from Environment Canada. This was confirmed with the CITES officer.

Appendix 1 orchids require a CITES Import Permit from EC

Apply to EC CITES office [CITES@ec.gc.ca](mailto:CITES@ec.gc.ca) for a permit which is free of charge. You must identify the exact species and you are supposed to supply the CITES certificate from the foreign vendor before EC will issue the certificate. You have to apply 6-8 weeks before you need the permit, e.g. now. If you go this route be sure to mark the application form "***attention Lynn***" and ***indicate right up front the absolutely critical deadline date you require (even then getting it may be dicey)***

**3. PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION FOR YOUR PURCHASED PLANTS**

At WOC choose your orchids (hybrids and CITES Appendix 2) carefully,... it will be easier to buy from a Singapore dealer. If you decide to buy from a dealer from another country make sure they have phytos

already issued with the proper declarations required by Canada before you buy. If you have to purchase a re-export certificate from Singapore officials this is another cost and time consumer to obtain.

All orchid plants must be bare root and accompanied by a Canadian import permit and phytosanitary certificate with the appropriate declarations as required by the Canadian import permit.

Flasks also require an import permit and phytosanitary certificate and must be clearly free of soil, sand and related debris, e.g. on sterile media. Additional declarations are not required for flasks.

The AVA (Singapore Plant Health Authority) will have officers at the Show to certify your plants. The time their offices are open and where will be posted at the Show. Don't leave certification until the last day.

- The cost FOR PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATION will be S\$12.00 for up to 10 plants, and S\$50.00 for more than 10 plants. We do not know how they will handle sterile flasks.
- There is also a fee for CITES certification, if required (Appendix 1 grown under artificial conditions and not wild collected). This is S\$ 12.00 per species and minimum fee is S\$60.

#### **4. IMPORT PROCEDURES AT THE Canadian BORDER**

When you arrive at the border, you will need to show your bare rooted plants, your Canadian import permit and the Singapore phytosanitary certificates for each orchid. If you have CITES I orchids then you will also need to show the CITES import permit and documentation.

Note, as this is not import from the USA, there is no houseplant exemption for hobbyists. Further, if you decide to ship your orchids back separately, you will need to go through a Canadian broker who will need a copy of all your paperwork.

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