UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine
Washington 25, D. C.

B. E. P. Q. 593

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PLANT QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

This summary of the plant quarantine import restrictions of the Republic of Lebanon has been prepared for the information of nurserymen, plant quarantine officials, and others interested in the exportation of plants and plant products from the United States to Lebanon.

It was prepared by Richard Faxon, Division of Plant Quarantines, from a translation of the Agricultural Quarantine Law dated June 10, 1948, at Beyrouth, furnished by Dr. Lee Ling of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy.

The information contained in this circular is believed to be correct and complete up to the time of preparation, but it is not intended to be used independently of, nor as a substitute for, the original text, and it is not to be interpreted as legally authoritative.

Chief, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine

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PLANT QUARANTINE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

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BASIC LEGISLATION

Agricultural Quarantine Law, June 10, 1948

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article I: Provides for the establishment of a Department of Agricultural Quarantine by the Ministry of Agriculture under the supervision of the Director of the Entomological Department. The quarantine department is authorized:

- a. To inspect all agricultural shipments coming from abroad in order to determine their condition and freedom from pests.
- b. To prohibit the entry of infected shipments forbidden under existing regulations.
- c. To prohibit the entrance in Lebanon of shipments found to be infected or infested.
- d. To disinfect shipments when disinfection is provided for in existing laws and regulations before entry into Lebanon.
- e. To inspect shipments of agricultural products for export and provide the necessary sanitary certificate required by the foreign country to which the shipments are consigned.
- f. To carry out all regulations and formalities concerning the protection of plants from any pest that may be imported from abroad.

IMPORTATION PROHIBITED

Article II: Importation of the following is prohibited:

- a. Soil.
- b. Living insects in any stage of development.
- c. Living bacteria and fungi harmful to plants.
- d. Bags, boxes and other containers or other material used in packing the above.

IMPORTATION RESTRICTED

The importation of trees and other plants or parts thereof, such as fruit, seeds, etc., alive or dry, fresh or dried, is not allowed unless by special permit from the Ministry of Agriculture.

AUTHORITY OF THE MINISTRY

Article III: The Ministry of Agriculture is authorized:

- a. To establish what should be considered harmful to agriculture.
- b. To forbid completely or on conditions the importation of any kind of plant, seed, dates or soil if it seems necessary to avoid an outbreak of any plant disease or to prevent its spread among plants.
- c. To determine the conditions under which the import permit should be granted.
- d. To grant import permits for soil and living insects.
- e. To grant exceptionally special import permits for prohibited articles to be used for scientific or technical purposes.
- f. To determine steps to be taken regarding agricultural shipments in transit by land, sea or air, in Lebanese harbors and customs.
- g. To establish costs and taxes collectable from the importer in accordance with this law.

DISPOSITION OF PROHIBITED SHIPMENTS

Article IV: Prohibited shipments or those imported not in conformity with this law must be sent back by the importer and at his expense within a maximum limit of ten days, beyond which the shipment will be destroyed.

The Minister of Agriculture will decide upon appropriate measures to be taken at the expense of the transgressor in order to prevent an outbreak of a potential disease pending reshipment. The Minister may order the immediate destruction of the shipment if it constitutes a danger to agriculture. No recompense may be claimed by the importer.

NOTICE OF ARRIVAL

Article V: All shipping and transport agencies (air, sea or land) must report to the Agricultural Quarantine Department the arrival of all shipments subject to plant quarantine within twenty-four hours.

LIVING INSECTS

Article VI: Shipments of living insects must be brought to the attention of plant quarantine inspectors within three days following their arrival in customs offices at harbors or airports. Packages of living insects may be opened only under the supervision of plant quarantine inspectors.

TREATMENT OF INFESTED SHIPMENTS

Article VII: All agricultural shipments which may be affected by a disease considered curable by the Ministry will be treated at the expense of the Ministry. Shipments affected by diseases considered incurable by the Ministry, including diseases harmful to plants which are not to be found in the Lebanese Republic, will not be allowed entry. They will be returned or destroyed with a delay of not to exceed one week after official notification from the Ministry. No appeal will be granted.

FUMIGATION OF PLANTS

Article VIII: All shipments by sea of plants or parts thereof capable of propagation, except seeds, will be fumigated or otherwise treated as a precautionary measure at the expense of the importer, without the necessity of proving them to be contaminated. Plants by parcel post will be fumigated, when deemed necessary, at the expense of the Ministry.

QUARANTINE OF PLANTS

Article IX: The Minister of Agriculture may seize living plants or parts thereof, except seeds, suspected of being infected and place them under close observation in the Agricultural Quarantine Station at the place of arrival until it is proved that they are not infected. The Ministry accepts no responsibility if the plants are infected, in which case they will be handled according to the preceding regulations.

PACKING REQUIREMENTS

Article X: All agricultural shipments coming from abroad must be packed so that they can be easily inspected and disinfected. They will be opened on the responsibility of the importer and at his expense. No plant material may be used as packing, except wood (shavings) and sawdust or any other stuff accepted by the Ministry.

The remaining articles provide for the transfer of shipments, penalties and the publication of the regulations in the Official Journal.

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