



**FLORIDA COUNCIL**  
**of**  
**BROMELIAD SOCIETIES inc.**

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**Quarterly Newsletter.**

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CALIFORNIA QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS

Some time ago I wrote the California Dept. of Agriculture regarding restrictions which might be imposed on Florida plants being carried for exhibition, sale or for the plant auction at the World Bromeliad Conference in Los Angeles on June 20-24. Any Florida bromeliad grower, amateur or commercial, who plans to carry plants to the World Conference, please read the following article very carefully.

A letter has been received from Mr. Ron Clementsen, Exclusion Biologist, Pest Exclusion Dept., Division of Plant Industry, California, and I quote portions herewith:

" Shippers of bromeliads to California must meet the requirements of Section 3271 and 3279 of the California Administrative Code prior to shipment. In addition, Federal Quarantine No. 81 for imported fire ants must also be met.

"When shipments arrive in California the provisions of Section 6401, Article I, Chapter II of the Food and Agricultural Code require the receiving county agricultural commissioner be notified."

All the codes referred to in the above letter are reprinted herewith. Please read carefully.

Since the letter received was a little short on specific information, I telephoned the Pest Exclusion office in California and was told the following:

Plants must be certified in advance, and any plants crossing the California state line will be confiscated if certification is not present. Houseplants are only houseplants if they are grown in the home. If grown in a hobby greenhouse they are no longer houseplants. If certification or testing must be done at the show, too much of the plants foliage or soil may have to be sacrificed, rendering it unfit for exhibition.

The concensus is that all testing and permits be accomplished in Florida prior to carrying any plants to California. Please check with your nearest Florida Dept. of Agriculture or the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture for instructions on how to proceed. If further information or clarification is required write or telephone Ms. Sharon Dobbins; Calif. Dept. of Agriculture; Pest Exclusion Division; 1220 N St.; Room 425; Sacramento, Cal. 95814 or telephone 916-322-5912. Office hours, California time, are 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Section 3271. Burrowing Nematode Exterior Quarantine.

A quarantine is established against the following pest, its hosts and possible carriers:

- (a) Pest. Burrowing nematode (*Radopholus similis*), a migratory endoparasite of the roots of citrus and many other plants.
- (b) Area Under Quarantine. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and all states and districts of the U.S. except the state of Arizona.
  - (1) Infested Area. The states of Florida, Hawaii, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and in the state of Texas, the counties of Cameron and Hidalgo.
- (c) Articles and Commodities Covered. The following articles and commodities are restricted entry into California when arriving from the areas indicated.
  - (1) From the Infested Area.
    - (A) All earth (including sand and soil).
    - (B) All plants and plant parts with roots (including aerial roots).
    - (C) All parts of plants produced below the ground or soil level.
    - (D) All plant cuttings for propagation.
  - (E) Exemptions. The following articles and commodities are exempt from the quarantine:
    1. Industrial sand and clay.
    2. Air plants (including certain orchids and other plants produced epiphytically) if growing exclusively in or on soil-free material such as osmunda fiber, tree fern trunk or bark.
- (1) Certification Requirements for Commodities from Infested Areas. All commodities covered moving from the "Infested Area" listed in (b)(1), whether moved direct from said area or by diversion or reconsignment from any other point (without regard to period of time held or grown at any intermediate point), are prohibited entry unless each shipment or lot is accompanied by a certificate issued by the authorized agricultural official of the state, district, or commonwealth where produced establishing that all material contained in the lot or shipment meets either A, B or C below:
  - (A) It has been determined through surveys, conducted at annual intervals (or during the one year period prior to shipment), that burrowing nematode does not exist on the property or premise or facility used to grow the nursery stock, and that the seed or plant parts used for production of the plants were determined by the certifying officer to be free from the burrowing nematodes (the survey methods shall have been approved by the California Dept. of Food & Agriculture), or
  - (B) The plants or plant parts being shipped to California were protected from burrowing nematode infestation by all the following sanitation methods:
    1. Propagated from clean seed or from cuttings taken at least 12 inches above ground level.
    2. Planted in sterilized soil or treated to assure freedom from burrowing nematodes.
    3. Retained in sterilized pots, containers or beds.

4. Placed on sterilized benches or sterilized supports at least 18 inches from the ground or floor level.
  5. Area beneath benches or supports holding plants treated at six-month intervals with a registered nematocide approved by the origin state agric officials except when concrete flooring is present.
  6. Plants and growing media sampled using methods approved by California Dept. of Food & Agric. and found free of burrowing nematodes.
- (c) The shipment consists of only unrooted plant cuttings of plants which are not prime hosts, the cuttings were taken at least 12 inches above ground level and were protected from contamination until shipped.

Section 3279. West Indian Sugarcane Root Borer Exterior Quarantine.

A quarantine is established against the following pest, its hosts and possible carriers:

- (a) Pest. West Indian sugarcane root borer, *Diaprepes abbreviata*, a pest native to the West Indies, which causes serious damage to sugarcane and also attacks ornamental nursery stock, citrus, corn, sweet potatoes, cotton and peppers.
- (b) Area Under Quarantine. State of Florida: Counties of Broward, Orange and Seminole.
- (c) Articles and Commodities Covered:
  - (1) Soil, sand or gravel separately or with other things.
  - (2) All plants and plant parts and plant products capable of propagation.
- (d) Restrictions. Articles and commodities **covered** are admissible into California from the area under quarantine if they have been certified by an authorized agricultural inspector of the state of origin to have been treated for West Indian sugarcane root borer in an approved manner or to have originated in an area free from the sugarcane root borer.
  - (1) Exemptions; The following articles are exempt from the certification requirements of this quarantine:
    - (A)(B)(C) not applicable to bromeliads
    - (D) Defoliated bare root nursery stock
    - (E) Privately owned indoor decorative houseplants.

FEDERAL QUARANTINE NO. 81  
IMPORTED FIRE ANT

- (a) Pest. Imported fire ant (*Solenopsis* spp.). This insect interferes with farming operations, causes damage to certain crops, and is a pest of livestock and pets as well as of people in rural and urban areas.
- (b) Regulated Areas. See 301.81-2a. Which includes the entire State of Florida.
- (c) Regulated Articles.
  1. Soil, separately or with other things.
  2. Plants with roots and soil attached, except houseplants grown in the home and not for sale.
  - 3., 4., 5., and 6. not applicable to bromeliads

