

RISK BACKGROUND

Fresh herbs for human consumption

Overview



(Image: Seacoast Eat Local, (2013), Parsley
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Fresh herbs for human consumption do not require an import permit but must be:

- a permitted species and plant part as specified in BICON
- sourced from New Zealand
- subject to pre-export inspection by the exporting country
- accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate
- packaged in secure packaging (i.e. insect-proof)
- inspected on-arrival.

The department has not developed import conditions for countries other than New Zealand.

Importers and department staff should ensure that the BICON conditions are met and that goods are free from general contamination, and the key risks described below.

Key risks

Carrot rust fly

Several herb species such as parsley, angelica, chervil, coriander, lovage are a host of Carrot rust fly (*Psila rosae*), which is a high priority plant pest of the vegetable industry. Carrot rust flies cause economically significant damage as larvae feed on the roots of host plants. This can result in the wilting and death of seedlings but in older plants may cause stunting. Although fresh herbs imported into Australia must be free from roots, adult flies may be present on the foliage of host plants. Australia requires that host species mentioned above, are certified to be free from Carrot rust fly, prior to export by the exporting countries National Plant Protection Organisation.

Other pathway risks

Imports of fresh herbs for human consumption may contain a range of biosecurity risk material including live insects, disease symptoms, and contaminants such as soil, weed seeds, hitchhiker pests and trash. These risks are managed through the range of import conditions outlined above.

Australia permits imports from New Zealand which is currently free from a number of key pests associated with herbs. These include the glassy-winged sharpshooter (*Homalodisca vitripennis*), vegetable leaf miner (*Liriomyza sativae*), Tomato leaf miner (*L. bryoniae*) and the tarnished plant bug (*Lygus lineolaris*). As these pest are not recorded in New Zealand, specific management measures to control these pests are not required.