Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

# RISK BACKGROUND

## *Pastinaca sativa* seeds for sowing

## Overview

*Pastinaca sativa* (parsnip) seeds that are imported for sowing require an import permit and must be:

- labelled with the full botanical name
- packed in clean, new packaging
- compliant with Australia's seed purity requirements to minimise contaminant risks
- treated or tested for '*Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum' using polymerase chain reaction (PCR).
- inspected on arrival.

Importers and department staff must ensure that all BICON conditions are met and that goods are free from biosecurity risks, as well as the key risks described below.


Figure 1. *Pastinaca sativa* seed [1]

## Key risks

Seeds of *Pastinaca sativa* (parsnip) can harbour seed-borne pathogens of biosecurity concern, as well as a range of biosecurity risk material.

### *'Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum'

*'Candidatus* Liberibacter solanacearum' is not known to occur in Australia and is an economically important pest of apiaceous crops. In plant hosts like parsley and parsnip, '*Ca.* L. solanacearum' causes a range of symptoms including redness of leaves, yellow discolouration and proliferation[2]. More information on this pathogen can be found at department's Final pest risk analysis for 'Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum' associated with apiaceous crops.

Australia manages the biosecurity risks posed by '*Ca.* L. solanacearum' by requiring imported host seeds to be hot water treated or tested and found free of the bacteria prior to release from biosecurity control.

### Other pathway risks

Imported seeds may harbour a range of other biosecurity risk material, including insects (e.g. Khapra beetle), disease symptoms, and contaminants such as soil, weed seeds, hitchhiker pests and trash. These biosecurity risks are managed through standard seed import conditions, including on-arrival inspection of all consignments and purity testing as required under import conditions.

## Document information

| Version | Date | Details of amendment |
|---|---|---|
| 1.0 | 30 March 2021 | First publication of document. |

[1] Ackley, B (2015), Pastinaca sativa, Ohio State University, accessed 24 February 2021

[2] Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (2009), Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum, Government of Western Australia, accessed 3 January 2021.