



PRODUCT REFERENCE

Plant material for research purposes



Image: WWF, (2017), *Seed growing in stages*, Credit: Malcolm Romain

The import of plant material for research purposes poses numerous risks to Australia's biosecurity, including the introduction of weeds, foreign plant pests, and diseases. All of these have the potential to be harmful to the environment, agriculture and economy. The severity of these risks vary depending on the type of material, the location and method of collection e.g. sourced from a laboratory or collected from the field, and the processing that the material has undergone.

There are three types of commodities that are imported via this BICON case:

Commodity	Description
Whole seed samples	This pathway is used for live, viable seed that is imported for the purpose of research using: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In vitro analysis (where material is not grown).• Growth and in vitro analysis e.g. where the researcher grows the seed and take samples of the generated plant material for the purposes of in vitro analysis.• In vivo analysis e.g. where the importer requires seed or material generated from the growth of the seed to be exposed to other material.
Plant samples (other than whole seed or live plant material)	This pathway is used for all non-viable plant material other than seed and herbarium specimens that is imported for the purpose of research. Note: Herbarium specimens are to be imported via the BICON case 'Herbarium specimens'.
Live plants and plant samples	This pathway is used for nursery stock, tissue cultures, and any other living, viable plant material imported for the purposes of research (with the exclusion of seed). This type of material is considered to pose an exceptionally high biosecurity risk, as in most



	<p>cases material that has been growing has a greater potential of exposure to insects, pests or pathogens.</p> <p>The pathway is intended for any living, viable plant material that is imported for the purpose of research using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In vitro analysis (where material is not grown).• Growth and in vitro analysis e.g. where the researcher continues to grow the imported material and take samples for the purposes of in vitro analysis.• In vivo analysis e.g. where the importer requires the imported material to be exposed to other material.
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