

NEW MEASURES FOR SEED OF CARROT, FENNEL, AND OTHER APIACEAE SPECIES



The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is responsible for setting the import measures for imported seeds and live plant material into New Zealand. The import measures aim to prevent the entry of new pests and diseases that may threaten New Zealand's environment, economy, or human health.

MPI now require specific measures to be applied to effectively manage the risk of entry of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* haplotypes C, D and E into New Zealand. The new requirements have been put in place to protect New Zealand's multi-million dollar carrot seed industry. These measures came into effect in June 2017 and all commercial importers of *Apiaceae* and members of the public are required to comply with the new measures.

What is *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*?

Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum is a bacterium that often affects different species of the *Apiaceae* plant family. This bacterium can cause leaf yellowing, bronze or red leaf discolouration, reduced size of the main root, lateral root growth and stunting and has caused serious damage to the carrot seed industry in Europe.

Isolates of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* from different geographical areas have been characterised into five haplotypes. Haplotype A is already present in New Zealand but affects a different group of plants. If haplotypes C, D and E were to establish in New Zealand, it could impact New Zealand's carrot seed production which is worth millions of dollars.

What are the changes to the requirements?

New import requirements have been put in place for plant hosts of *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* haplotypes C, D and E on imported *Apiaceae* seed (including carrot, parsnip, celery, fennel, parsley). The following species (previously imported under 'basic' measures) must now meet the new requirements under the *Apiaceae* schedule of the Seeds for Sowing Import Health Standard:

- *Anthriscus caucalis*
- *Anthriscus cerefolium*
- *Anthriscus sylvestris*
- *Apium austral*
- *Apium graveolens*
- *Apium nodiflorum*
- *Apium prostratum*
- *Daucus carota*
- *Daucus glochidiatus*
- *Foeniculum vulgare*
- *Pastinaca sativa*,
- *Petroselinum crispum*

A phytosanitary certificate endorsed by the National Plant Protection Organisation of the exporting country is now a mandatory requirement and seed must be either:

- from a country where *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*' haplotypes C, D, and E are absent/not known to occur

OR

- sourced from a seed lot officially sampled according to ISTA or AOSA methodology, and tested using a NPPO approved PCR method and found free from *Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum* haplotypes C, D and E.

OR

- treated with hot water at a minimum temperature of 50°C for at least 20 continuous minutes*

Note:

The hot water treatment would be required to be completed offshore prior to export.

Please refer to the *Apiaceae* schedule in the [Seeds for sowing import health standard](#) for more detail on the new requirements.