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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service </>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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International Traveler: Coffee, Teas, Honey, Nuts, and Spices

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The United States restricts or prohibits the entry of many agricultural products, which can carry foreign pests and diseases that harm American agriculture and our environment. Help us keep American agriculture healthy by following the guidance on this page about products you may want to bring into the United States.

Travelers entering the United States must declare all agricultural or wildlife products.

Travelers entering the United States must declare all agricultural or wildlife products to U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials. You must also tell them if you visited a farm or were in contact with animals before traveling to the United States.

U.S. agricultural inspectors will examine your items to be sure they meet entry requirements and do not harbor harmful foreign pests or diseases. U.S. inspectors have the authority to make a final determination about whether your products can enter the country. We recommend that you keep receipts and original packaging of agricultural products as proof of their country of origin.

As long as you declare all of the agricultural products you are bringing with you, you will not face any penalties — even if an inspector determines that they cannot enter the country.

Coffee, Teas, Honey, Nuts and Spices that You CAN and CANNOT bring back to the United States

Expand All

Coffee (Roasted, Green, Whole, Seeds, Plant Parts)

Green Tea, Black Tea

Herbal Tea/Herbal Infusions

Products traveler CAN bring if commercially packaged/prepared (declare all at entry):

- Hibiscus flowers contained in herbal tea products are permitted entry, subject to inspection.
- Herbal tea products containing ginseng or goldenseal are permitted, subject to inspection, if commercially packaged and ready to be boiled, steeped, or microwaved in liquid.
- Commercially packaged herbal products containing lemongrass are permitted subject to inspection; please see the Spices section of this page for guidance on lemongrass that is not commercially packaged.

- Dodder (*aka Semen cuscatae, Cuscuta chinensis, or tu si zi; Cuscuta japonica, or toshishi or tosaja*) is permitted in herbal tea products if contained in individual, ready-to-steep tea bags and dodder is processed sufficiently for seed color to be gray.
- Herbal tea products containing citrus (*Rutaceae*) leaves, flowers, bark, roots, peel, or fruit are enterable if the product is commercially packaged and ready to be boiled, steeped, or microwaved in liquid, or if package is labelled as having undergone required heat treatment. Otherwise, entry is prohibited.
- Herbal teas containing bark from *Prunus* trees (apricot, cherry, peach plum, etc.) are enterable if commercially packaged and ready to be boiled, steeped, or microwaved in liquid, or if package is labelled as having undergone required heat treatment. Otherwise, entry is prohibited.
- Masala chai, if all components are finely ground, may enter any port except for Hawaii or Puerto Rico, subject to inspection. If not finely ground, please contact USDA's Plant Protection and Quarantine Permit Services office at (301) 851-2046 to inquire about requirements.
- Roobios tea is permitted, subject to inspection.

RESTRICTED or PROHIBITED products containing herbal ingredients:

- Coca leaves and khat (Arabian tea) are restricted as Federally controlled substances.
- Products containing bark derived from endangered plants protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) are restricted. Please see <https://www.cites.org/eng/app/appendices.php> for more information.
- Any product containing barberry (*berberis*) leaves or *Prunus* (apricot, cherry, peach plum, etc.) flowers is prohibited from entry.

Honey
Nuts
Spices

[Expand All](#)

Need Help?

If you can't find your commodity listed above, browse the [Agricultural Import Requirements Database](#).

If you still have questions about a particular plant or plant products (fruits, vegetables, plant parts, seeds, soil, or souvenirs made from wood or plants), contact us.

Phone: 877-770-5990 (toll-free)

Email: plantproducts.permits@usda.gov

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