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Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

Global Internet Trade in Plants for Planting

Results from a smallscale study in Germany

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1. Why a study

- Plant health inspectors reported an increase in small postal consignments with plants in recent years
- Increase of interceptions of such consignments at points of entry
- **What is there what we don't see?**

Plants for planting are high risk pathway

Knowledge required on the market and potential imports

Small scale study performed in 2009/2010

→to get a first idea of the situation

→focus on final private consumer of plants

Study design and arrangements

- planned + financed by Plant Health Institute/JKI
- performed by retired senior PH inspector
- special arrangements with customs for delivery of test purchases + with official labs



Global Internet Trade in Plants



2.1 Methods

Survey of internet traders

- offers of plants especially from other continents were screened
- suppliers were classified according to type of plants
- **Test purchases:**
 - suppliers from other continents
 - delivered to consignee in Germany
 - ‚plants for planting‘ only
 - offers for private consumers (up to 40 EURO each)
 - consignments were investigated
 - infringements were classified

Global Internet Trade in Plants

2.2 Results

Survey of internet traders :



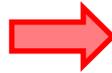
- **1,097 traders**
- **from a limited number of countries (13)**
- **traders focus on plant groups according to their regional background**
- **offers are often available in limited timeframe only**

Global Internet Trade of Plants



2.2 Results

Offers on the internet:



*only websites in English
could be evaluated*

- USA (53 %)
- Thailand (18 %)
- Australia (11 %)
- Malaysia (6 %)
- Singapore, South Africa (3 % each)
- Canada (2 %)
- China, Taiwan (1 % each)
- Canary Islands, India, Mexico, Turkey (< 1 % each)



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2.2 Results

Main plant groups offered on the internet:

- USA → **all kind of plants**, many subtropical tropical plants, orchids, seeds
- Thailand → **mainly orchids**
- Australia → **rare and endemic plants**
- Malaysia → **subtropical and tropical plants, orchids, bamboo**
- Singapore → **orchids, Plumeria, Adenium**
- South Africa, Canary Islands, Mexico → **succulents, cactuses**
- Canada → **especially perennial herbs**
- China → **hardy orchids, primroses**
- Taiwan → **orchids, aquatic plants**
- India → **foliage plants, orchids (cut flowers)**
- Turkey → **fruit trees, woody plants**

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2.2 Results

Orders of plants for planting:

- 117 test purchases from 70 different traders
- plants from 54 different families
- > 40 % for planting outdoors (13 % summer only)

Good news first.....

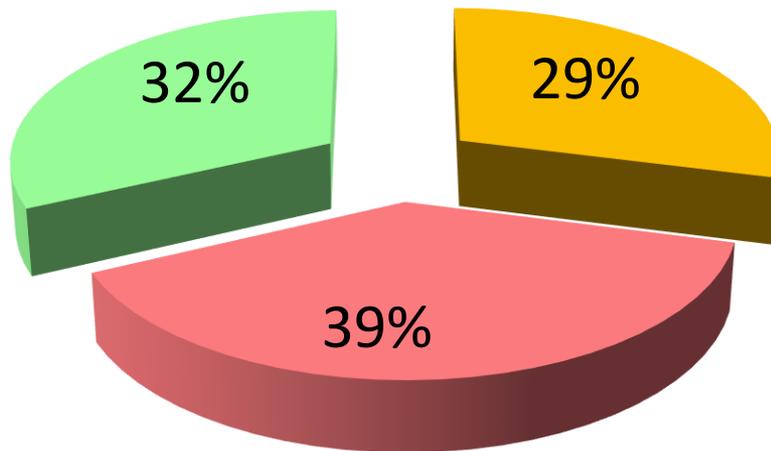
- **Some traders did not deliver plants to Germany because of import requirements (e.g. in USA or South Africa)**



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Formal non compliance

Missing or false customs declarations



- without declaration
- false declaration
- correct declaration



Zu meinen bevorzugten Shops hinzufügen | Für Newsletter anmelden

Amorphophallus & Pycnospatha | Amaryllidaceae | Heliconiaceae | Seeds of plants | Bulbs & Plants

 Artikel in Sonderaktionen

Shop-Kategorien

Startseite des eBay Shops

Bulbs & Plants

Amorphophallus &
Pycnospatha

Andere

postthailand



me CANNA
RALIS Plant
Certificate



...
Klicken Sie hier für Zentrierung



Bulb ALPINIA
ZERUMBET
VARIEGATA Plant

NO
PICTURE
AVAILABLE

Bulb CRINUM
XANTHOPHYLLUM
GOLDEN-LEAF Plant



5 Bulbs of
HIPPEASTRUM
RETICULATUM



Bulb MUSA
ORNATA ROXB Pink
Banana Plant +Phyto



Bulb
ORNATA
Banana Plant

Verbleibende Zeit
N/A
 Sofort Kaufen
24.00


[Click here to browse all my eBay items!](#)

FREE
auctiva

[Auctiva KOSTENLOS Showcase wird eine Verbesserung aller Ihrer Leistungen.](#)

Description :

Bulb of CRINIUM ASIATICUM VAR. PROCERUM, Family : **AMARYLLIDACEAE** , plant from **THAILAND**. *This price includes the fee of the Phytosanitary Certificate.*

Bulb of CRINIUM ASIATICUM...plant from Thailand . This price includes the fee of a phytosanitary certificate ...



We are experience and expert in bulbs and plants export to worldwide for more than 5 years.



We do believe any problems can be solved by communication. Customers are able to contact us,



Version 2.0 of the information, updated when 16/04/07(D:M:Y)

- We can ship this plant with the Phytosanitary Certificate to worldwide for the inspection from your customs.

***** Note:**

- For Customers in only **United States**, The **USDA** permits to import the plant products to **USA** without your import permit papers, if they are lower than 13 plants with the phytosanitary certificate. For the plant products are more than 12 plants, you have to send the copy of papers import permit papers to us and then we can give the Phytosanitary Certificate to you, (Click for example, The Import Permit Papers of USA).

- For Customers in only **Canada**, you should contact **CFIA** Import Service Centre to require your import permit papers, before importing the plant products.

- For Customers in only **Australia**, you have to send the copy of your import permit papers to us and then we can give the Phytosanitary Certificate to you. It is very hard to get the Phytosanitary Certificate. You should check with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) for import requirements.

In other countries, you don't send your import permit papers to me.

To import the plant into your country without the Phytosanitary Certificate, the plant may risk to be inspected and destroyed from your customs.

- But if you don't want the Phytosanitary Certificate, please let us know, we will discount the price from **\$19.9** to **\$16.9** and write contents 'Gift' in the customs declaration and ship your order to you as soon as possible.
- Plant/Bulb(s) are shipped at buyer's risk. That is to say we pack them the best way possible but if damage occur because of rough transit it is

To import the plant into your country without the Phytosanitary certificate, the plant may risk to be inspected and destroyed from your customs.

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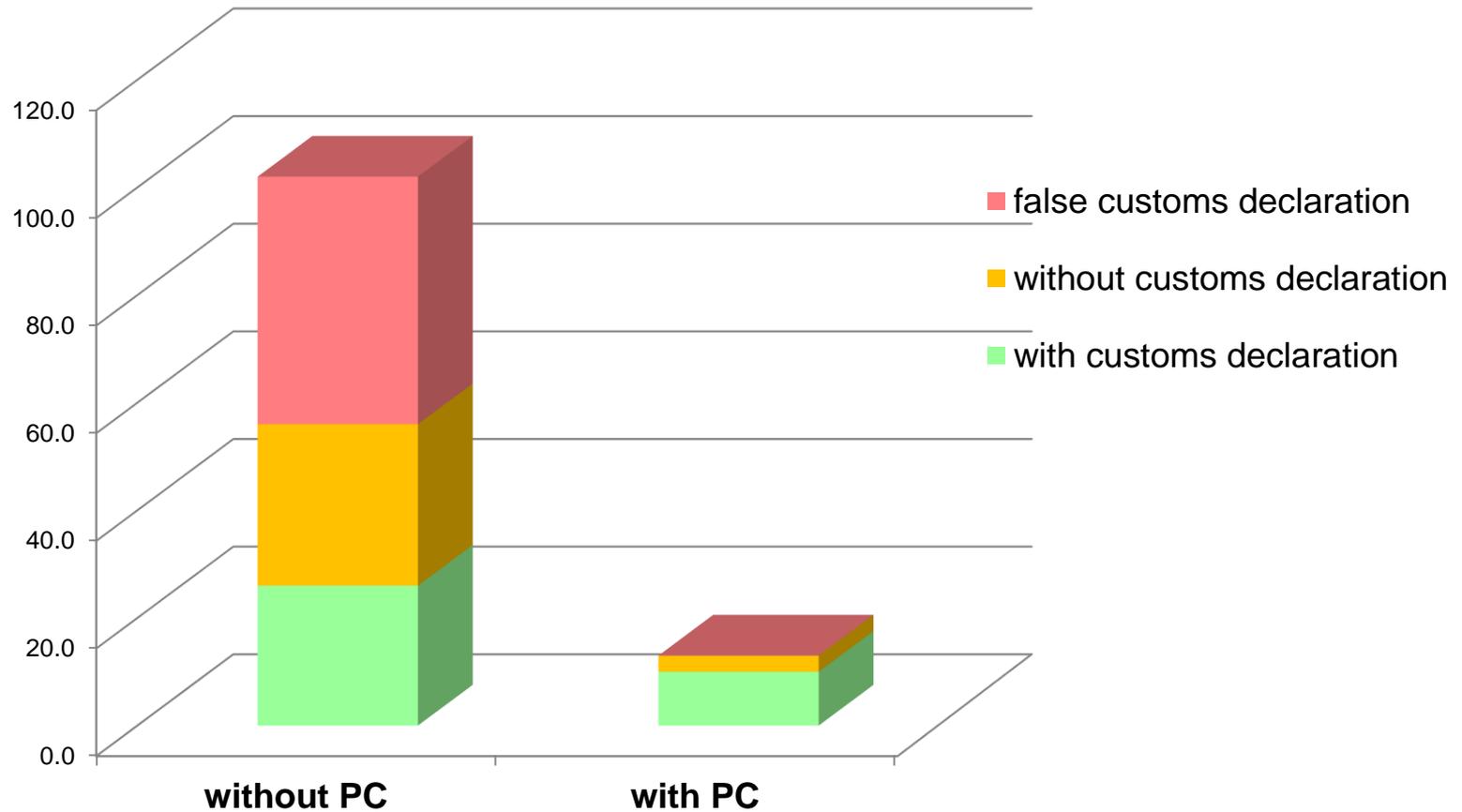
in the customs declaration and ship your order as soon as possible.

Global Internet Trade in Plants



Formal reasons for interceptions:

Missing phytosanitary certificates 89 % of consignments



Global Internet Trade in Plants



Prohibited plants and soil: **12 % of the consignments**



Seed potatoes
from Canada

without customs
declaration,

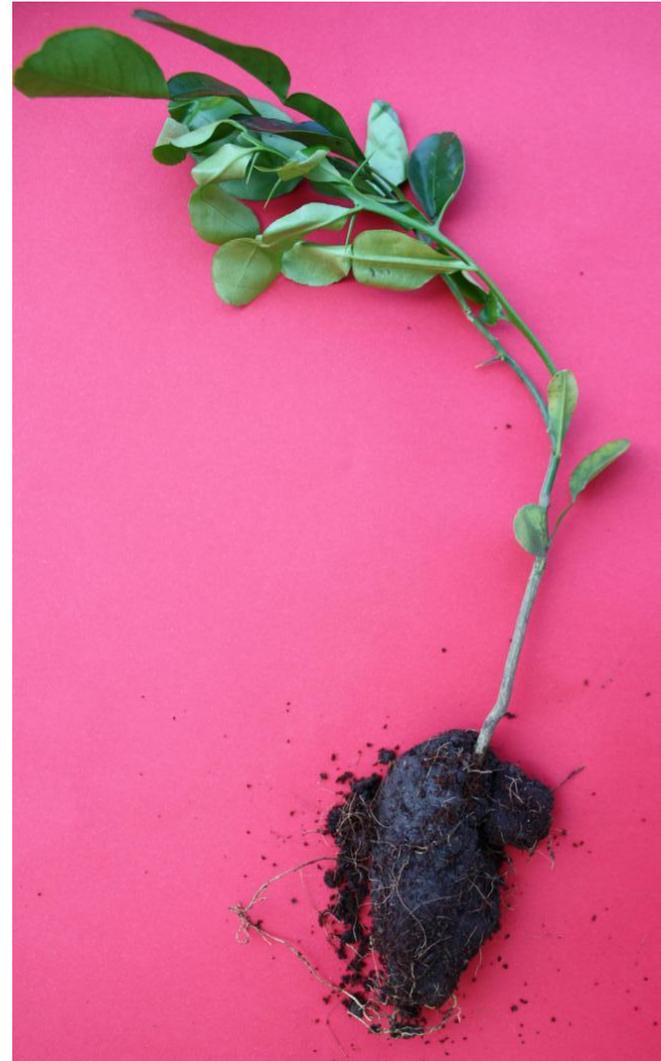
without PC

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Prohibited plants and soil: 12 % of the consignments

Citrus hystrix from
Malaysia

- soil attached
- false customs declaration,
- without PC,
- infestation with nematodes: roots: *Meloidogyne* spp., soil: *Pratylenchus* spp., and *Helicotylenchus* spp.



Global Internet Trade in Plants

Prohibited plants and soil: 12 % of the consignments

Chamaecyparis pisifera from USA

- soil attached
- without PC
- **false** customs declaration,



United States Postal Service
Customs Declaration
May be opened officially See Instructions on Reverse
Do not duplicate without USPS approval. CN 22

Cut Gift Commercial sample Documents Other

Quantity and detailed description of contents (1)	Weight (2) lb. oz.	Value (3) (US \$)
CLOTHES		10.00
<i>For commercial items only</i> If known, HS tariff number (4) and country of origin of goods (5)	Total Weight (6)	Total Value (7) (US \$)
		10

I, the undersigned, whose name and address are given on the item, certify that the particulars given in this declaration are correct and that...



Global Internet Trade in Plants



Harmful organisms: 13 % of the consignments

- *Opogona saccari*
- *Meloidogyne* sp.
- *Acidovorax avenae*
- Elateridae
- *Fusarium* sp.
- *Helicotylenchus* sp.
- *Hemiberlesia lataniae*
- *Marssonina salicicola*
- *Nectria cinnabarina*
- *Pratylenchus* sp.
- *Pythium* sp.

Global Internet Trade in Plants

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Cordyline terminalis
from USA

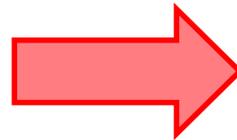


Global Internet Trade of Plants



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- *Pythium* sp.



all consignments **with**
pests were sent **without**
PC

Global Internet Trade in Plants



2.3 Conclusions -- findings

- many species of plants for planting are available for sale on the internet for final consumer
- often (2/3 of consignments) **customs declaration is missing or deliberately misleading**. Internet traders knowingly ignore import requirements (wrong customs declarations, hints on the internet to avoid costs)
- phytosanitary **import requirements are hardly fulfilled** in small postal consignments
- many **consignments can not be inspected at import** due to missing/wrong customs declaration
- **prohibited plants** (partly with prohibited soil) can be **purchased easily**
- considerable **part** of consignments **contain pests**

Global Internet Trade in Plants



2.3 Conclusions – measures...?

→ Questions!

- **How to act against illegal practice? What is legal basis for following up infringements ? What measures to react in case of critical offers?**
- **How to detect plants in small postal consignments by customs and NPPOs without proper customs declarations?**
- **Information of inspectors, consumers and traders might help? How? Is national activity effective? →IPPC?**
- **Information/contacts with platforms like Ebay/Amazon might be advisable? By whom and how?**
- **Possibly representative study needed involving more countries?**



Thank you!