

Ribes spp. plants Import, Transport & Planting Permit Requirements in Rhode Island

The White Pine Blister Rust Control Act was enacted in Rhode Island to protect native white pines from white pine blister rust, which is transmitted by plants of the genus *Ribes*. According to this Act, permits from DEM/Div. of Agriculture are required for import into or transport within the state (\$50 permit fee) and planting (\$50 permit fee) of *Ribes* spp. plants in Rhode Island.

This Act prohibits the possession, transport, planting, propagation or sale of black currants (*Ribes nigrum*) and the planting of flowering currants (*Ribes aureum* and *Ribes odoratum*) in the state and limits the planting of other *Ribes* species such as red and white currants and gooseberries to designated low-hazard areas.

Movement of *Ribes* into or within Rhode Island must be accompanied by a Permit to Import or Transport plants of the genus *Ribes* issued to the vendor/shipper or transporter. The permitted shipment of *Ribes* into or within Rhode Island may only be planted after a Permit for Planting *Ribes* spp. has been issued to the planter.

Requests for planting permits may be made in writing to the attention of Matt Green, RIDEM Division of Agriculture, 235 Promenade St., Rm 370, Providence, RI, 02908, and must include the number and genus, species, and cultivar if applicable, of the plants to be planted, the source of the plants, the name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the permit, the street address where the plants will be planted, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the property where the plants will be planted.

Requests for permits to import *Ribes* into, or transport *Ribes* within, Rhode Island may be made in writing to the attention of Matt Green at RIDEM Division of Agriculture, 235 Promenade St., Rm 370, Providence, RI, 02908, and must include the number and genus, species, and cultivar if applicable, of the plants to be imported or transported, the source of the plants, the name, address and telephone number of the person requesting the permit, the street address of the destination of the plants, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the property of the destination of the plants.