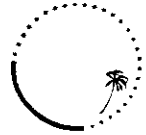


# SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION

Quarantine Advisory Leaflet 13  
1988



## KAVA

Latin name:	<i>Piper methysticum</i>
Family:	Piperaceae
Closely related plants:	<i>Piper betel</i> — Betel vine <i>Piper nigrum</i> — Black pepper
Trade commodities:	Dried base of stem and root, whole, sliced, chipped or powdered
Propagating material:	Cuttings

Loan no. 8411 (B)

### Quarantine Risks

The fresh, dried, root and lower part of the stem, and dried slices, chips and powder, are traded between countries of the SPC region and exported to countries outside.

#### Dried stem and root

There are some insect pests of leaves and stems in the region, such as:

*Araecerus vieillardii* (fungus weevil), *Aspidiotus destructor* (coconut scale), *Brachylybas variegatus* (brown coreid bug), *Elytroteinus subtruncatus* (Fiji ginger weevil), *Parasaissetia nigra* (nigra scale), *Planococcus pacificus* (Pacific mealybug).

Those countries free from specific important pests, such as the Fiji ginger weevil, the larvae of which bore into the stems of kava plants, may wish infested exporting

countries to fumigate consignments.

Although unlikely, eggs of the Giant African Snail, *Achatina fulica*, could be present.

Several fungal and nematode pathogens attack the shoots and roots of kava, such as:

*Athelia rolfsii*, *Colletotrichum gloeosporioides*, *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Pythium irregulare*, *P. splendens*, and the nematodes, *Radopholus similis* (burrowing nematode) and *Rotylenchulus reniformis* (reniform nematode).

Kava wilt, of unknown cause, associated with some of the fungi and nematodes listed above, is a serious disease of the plant and has a restricted distribution in

the region. It could be spread to new areas in stem cuttings, dried roots and/or in consignments contaminated with soil.

No virus diseases have been recorded on

kava, from the region or elsewhere.

### **Propagating material**

Pests and diseases could be carried on or in cuttings used for propagation.

## Quarantine Action and Treatments

Mandatory commodity treatments should be carried out in the exporting country. These should be stated on a phytosanitary certificate, which should accompany the consignment and clearly state its origin.

### **Dried stem and root**

Countries free from kava wilt should prohibit importation of dried stems and roots from countries where the disease is present.

A sample of the consignment should be inspected on arrival to ensure that it is non-viable, dry, and free of soil. If soil is present, all the roots should be cleaned by washing under pressure. The soil collected should be treated with formalin (1 part 40 per cent formaldehyde to 39 parts water) or disposed of in the sea. If this cannot be done satisfactorily, the consignment should be re-exported or burnt.

If inspection of the consignment reveals the presence of insects, fumigate as for stored products' pests with methyl bromide at normal atmospheric pressures using 32g/m<sup>3</sup> for 24 hours at 21°C or above. A similar treatment should be given if there is concern that eggs of the

Giant African Snail, *Achatina fulica*, could be present.

### **Processed kava**

Clean, dry, sliced, chipped or powdered kava is of minimal quarantine risk. All imports should be inspected and if infested with insects, fumigated as above. Health authorities should be notified if the consignment is considered unfit for human consumption. Consignments should be rejected if soil is present because of the risk of importing nematode and other soil-borne pests.

### **Propagating material**

The movement of vegetative propagating material from countries where kava wilt occurs should be done through quarantine facilities in an intermediate country.

From elsewhere, importations should be made under the supervision of the government services and limited to small quantities of cuttings. Stems with roots attached should be avoided because of the risk of transferring insects, soil-borne fungal and nematode pathogens. The material should be fumigated with methyl bromide at normal atmospheric pressure, as follows, and then grown in

quarantine in the importing country:

g/m <sup>3</sup>	time (hours)	temperature (°C)
48	2	11-15
40	2	16-20
32	2	21-25
24	2	26-30
16	2	31 and above

*This leaflet was prepared and published by the SPC Plant Protection Service, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji.*

*This leaflet gives general guidance only; quarantine action is subject to the legislation and regulations of individual countries of the SPC region.*

*Leaflets in this series include:*

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| (1) Banana    | (8) Tomato     |
| (2) Beans     | (9) Taro       |
| (3) Cabbage   | (10) Capsicum  |
| (4) Citrus    | (11) Pawpaw    |
| (5) Cucurbits | (12) Pineapple |
| (6) Orchids   | (13) Kava      |
| (7) Peanuts   |                |

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