

# CBP Agriculture Specialists Working at El Paso Area Ports of Entry Ensure Mother's Day Flowers are Disease and Pest Free

**EL PASO, Texas** - U.S. Customs and Border Protection [agriculture specialists](#) working at El Paso area ports of entry are busy this week making sure that personal and commercial importations of Mother's Day flowers are free from insects, pests and diseases that could harm the agricultural and floral industries of the United States. Mother's Day is observed in Mexico on Thursday, May 10. The U.S. observance is Sunday, May 13.

“This is traditionally one of the busiest times of the year with CBP agriculture specialists intercepting thousands of prohibited cut flowers being imported from Mexico,” said Hector Mancha, CBP Director of Field Operations in El Paso. “CBP agriculture specialists are hard at work making certain that any imported floral arrangements are free from insects, pests or disease.”

During last year's Mother's Day period CBP agriculture specialists working at El Paso area ports of entry intercepted more than 7,600 cut flowers.

CBP strongly encourages the public to consult [the CBP website](#) before they import floral arrangements so they know which flowers are permissible and which are prohibited or restricted. CBP suggests those who plan to import flowers and plants from Mexico to advise their florist that the arrangements are destined for U.S. delivery. Some flowers and plant materials commonly found in floral arrangements at southwest border ports of entry are prohibited.

While a relatively small number of harmful pests are found among the millions of stems inspected by CBP, a single dangerous pest could cause millions of dollars of damage to our nation's crops. CBP recommends that people who wish to import flowers, plant materials, and other agricultural items consult the CBP Info Center section on the [CBP website](#) before they travel. They should also declare all items they've acquired abroad to CBP officers to avoid civil or criminal penalties and reduce the risk of introducing pest and disease to the U.S.

Traditionally, Mother's Day, Valentine's Day and the Easter holiday weekend are times when CBP agriculture specialists are very busy inspecting floral arrangements. At international ports of entry, land borders, and international mail facilities, CBP agriculture specialists are the front line in the fight against the introduction of insects, pests and diseases into the United States.

## Photocaption

### CBP Checking for pests