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Australia Resumes Moth Orchid Imports from Taiwan

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Australia has resumed imports of moth orchids from Taiwan following confirmation that the country met all quarantine requirements, according to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Agency. This decision ends a suspension that had been in place since 2020 due to concerns over pests and plant diseases detected in some shipments.

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced the resumption after inspections conducted between July and December 2024 found that Taiwan's moth orchid greenhouses fully complied with Australia's biosecurity standards.

Moth orchids represent a significant export product for Taiwan's floral industry, with over 50 million plants shipped globally each year, generating more than US\$140 million in revenue. Approximately 2 million plants valued at over US\$7 million are exported annually to Australia. Currently, 26 greenhouses operated by 18 registered Taiwanese exporters have been approved to supply orchids to the Australian market.

The import suspension in 2020 followed the detection of pests and diseases in some consignments. In response, Taiwan implemented a comprehensive quarantine improvement program to meet Australian standards and enhance the competitiveness of its orchid exports. This program involved collaboration among researchers from the Taiwan Agricultural Research Institute and National Chung Hsing University, pest inspectors from the Taiwan Orchid Growers' Association, and local quarantine officials.

The initiative included nationwide inspections of orchid greenhouses, identification and resolution of quarantine challenges, and the development of improved pest and disease control techniques. These efforts led to stabilized export quality and culminated in a final inspection in June 2025 that found no remaining quarantine issues, prompting Australia to lift its import suspension.

The resumption of moth orchid exports to Australia is expected to help Taiwan diversify its markets amid changing global trade dynamics. Taiwan's largest orchid market, the United States, recently imposed tariffs on Taiwanese orchids, increasing rates from zero to 20 percent.

According to Tseng Chun-pi, secretary-general of the Taiwan Orchid Growers' Association, US orders dropped by 15 percent between April and June 2025 following the introduction of a 10 percent tariff in April, with the full 20 percent tariff taking effect later. Given the short shelf life of orchids, this decline in US demand is likely to affect production levels.

Industry representatives state that renewed access to the Australian market will provide vital stability for Taiwan's orchid sector during this period of shifting international trade conditions.