

Agriculture Department Warns Consumers to Report Unsolicited, Mislabeled Seeds Received by Mail

PA Department of Agriculture guidance to the public for reporting and handling seeds received from China. Here is a link for a reporting form. <https://arcg.is/149zC90>

PDA Headquarters and the USDA PPQ Carlisle office have been receiving hundreds of calls this week regarding this issue. The number of people that have received these is overwhelming. Please be patient as we work through these reports and efforts.

send seeds and packaging to

USDA APHIS PPQ
Tim Newcamp, SPHD
401 E Louthier Street, Suite 102
Carlisle PA 17013

include your name, address and phone number

If you do not wish to mail the seed, then follow the instructions for destruction below

This collection process, reporting process and/or destruction instructions may change.

In response to the urgent need to provide destruction methods for seeds and planted seeds from China to our state cooperators and the general public USDA S&T had made the following recommendations. Please keep in mind as better alternatives are developed this guidance may change. The preferred method for disposal would be any established quarantine disposal option like incineration or deep burial under compliance; however, where this is not feasible please be guided by the following options available now:

Dry heat (oven) method for Seeds:

- Preheat oven to 325F (163C)
- Place seeds in a monolayer on a baking pan (or cookie sheet) lined with tinfoil
- Dispose of empty seed packet in the trash.
- Place seed in pre-heated oven and maintain for 30 min.
- Remove from oven and allow to cool
- Double bag the baked seeds in plastic baggies and dispose of in trash

Destruction options for potted seeds/plants:

- Remove the plants (including soil) and place inside a plastic bag. Use the thickest plastic bag available. Squeeze as much air out of the bag as possible. Seal the bag.
- Place inside a second plastic bag. Squeeze as much air out of the bag as possible. Seal second bag.

- Dispose of the planting container in 2 trash bags as described above (recommended). Or
- Remove as much soil as possible from inside the pot with a paper towel.
- Wash the planting container with soap and water to remove dirt.
- Soak the planting container in a 10% bleach solution for 30 minutes, rinse and refrain from planting new material in the container for 12 months.
- Collect runoff from washing the planting container and put it down the drain or toilet.

Destruction options for seeds/plants sowed in ground:

- Remove the plants including the surrounding soil, including 3 inches of soil around the seeds/plants.
- Where seed germination has not occurred, remove the soil presumed to contain the planted seeds.
- Place plant and soil material inside a plastic bag. Use the thickest plastic bag you have available. Squeeze as much air out of the bag as possible. Seal the bag.
- Place inside a second plastic bag. Squeeze as much air out of the bag as possible. Seal second bag.
- Dispose of the double-bagged plant material/soil into trash, do not compost.
- Refrain from planting new plants in the affected area for 12 months and remove any plants that grow in the area.