



AASCO

Association of American Seed Control Officials

UNSOLICITED SEED SHIPMENTS

July 28, 2020

Over the past few weeks, there have been increasing reports of individuals receiving seeds which they did not order. Often, the seeds are clearly mislabeled as a product other than seed, presumably to avoid U.S. Customs inspections.

Individuals who receive unsolicited seeds should be concerned. These seeds may be an invasive weed or be infected with a disease which is not currently in the United States. The introduction of a noxious weed or new disease can have devastating effects on agriculture and our food supply.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, other federal agencies, and State departments of agriculture to investigate the situation.

Since Foreign commerce is within the APHIS jurisdiction, anyone who receives unsolicited seeds should immediately contact their State plant regulatory official or APHIS State plant health director. Do not throw away the seeds as this could spread disease or noxious weeds. Please hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label, until someone from your State department of agriculture or APHIS contacts you with further instructions. Do not plant seeds from unknown origins.

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