

Ohio Department of Agriculture: Unsolicited Seed Reporting

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) and USDA-APHIS have been notified that several Ohio residents have received unsolicited packages in the mail containing seeds that appear to have originated from China. The types of seeds in the packages are currently unknown.

Unsolicited seeds could be invasive species, contain noxious weeds, could introduce diseases to local plants, or could be harmful to livestock. Invasive species and noxious weeds can displace native plants and increase costs of food production. Similar seed packets have been received recently in several other locations across the United States.

If you receive a package of this type, please **DO NOT** plant these seeds. If they are in sealed packaging, do not open the sealed package. Please retain the original packaging, as that information may be useful to trade compliance officers as they work through this issue. Citizens should report receiving seeds and submit the packages to USDA using one of the following methods:

Report Online:

You can report the seeds to ODA online at:

<https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/resources/seed-reporter>

Mail-in Option:

If possible, place the materials including the seeds, original packaging material and your contact information in a resealable plastic bag and mail them to USDA-APHIS at the following address:

Attn: USDA -SITC
8995 E. Main St, Building 23
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Drop Off at Extension Office:

Place the materials including the seeds, original packaging material and your contact information in a resealable plastic bag and drop them off at the Licking County Extension (or your county's OSU Extension Office) during business hours. Please note that extension facilities may have COVID-19 specific signage detailing procedures such as wearing a facial covering that must be followed.

If you wish to report a seed mailing outside of Ohio, please contact the appropriate department in that state or the USDA APHIS Anti-smuggling Hotline by calling 800-877-3835 or by emailing SITC.Mail@aphis.usda.gov.



Unsolicited Reporting Data

The data submitted via this form is reported to the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Plant Pest Control section and the Ohio State Plant Health Director.

Submission Date: _____

Name: _____
 First Last

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Ohio County: _____

Where are the seeds currently? (Have they been kept, thrown away, destroyed, planted, etc.?)

Approximately when did the package arrive?

Did you receive additional packages?

Did you order anything from an e-commerce site (ex. Amazon, Wish, etc.)? If yes, provide website name.

Did you order any seeds this year?

If yes, what company did you order seeds from?

Additional comments:

ODA and APHIS work hard to prevent the introduction of invasive species and protect Ohio agriculture. All foreign seeds shipped to the United States should have a phytosanitary certificate which guarantees the seeds meet important requirements. We will have the latest information regarding this investigation at <https://agri.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/oda/divisions/plant-health/resources/seed-reporter>.