U.S. AGRICULTURAL ALERT

For international travelers departing from the United Arab Emirates:

Rice, soybeans, chickpeas, and safflower seeds from the United Arab Emirates and other countries where the Khapra beetle exists or is known to occur **are prohibited** from entering the United States.

USDA/APHIS, Indira Singh

If rice, soybeans, chickpeas, or safflower seeds are found in passenger baggage arriving in the United States, it will be confiscated and destroyed. When you arrive in the United States, you must declare all food and agricultural items on your Customs Declaration Form and verbally to officers or agriculture specialists with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Passengers who fail to declare agricultural items may be subject to penalties of up to $1,000 or more per violation.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

USDA/APHIS, Indira Singh

Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*)

Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development Archive, Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development, Bugwood.org

Khapra Beetle: A Devastating Agricultural Pest

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits these agricultural items because they could be harboring the Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*). This insect is one of the world's most destructive pests of grain products and seed. In response to increasing numbers of Khapra beetle detections in passenger baggage from countries where Khapra beetle is known to occur, USDA issued Federal Orders on July 8, 2011, that prohibit rice, soybeans, chickpeas, or safflower seeds from entering the United States in passenger baggage and non-commercial packages sent via international mail or express courier.

Please help to keep the Khapra beetle out of the United States. Simply leave these items behind and avoid confiscations, fines, and penalties.

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