



### USDA Investigates Packages of Unsolicited Seeds Sent to US Residents

WASHINGTON, July 30, 2020 —People across the country have received unsolicited packages of seeds. 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.

For more information and actualities suitable for broadcast please click on the following links, where Osama El-Lissy, Deputy Administrator of APHIS' Plant Protection and Quarantine Program shares what we know as of Wednesday evening, July 29, 2020.

#### Additional Information

- [USDA Investigating "Mystery Seed Packets" from China](#)
- [Seed Packets May only be Part of So-Called "Brushing Scam"](#)
- [Unsolicited Seeds Are of Several Plant Species](#)
- [What to Do if You Get Unsolicited Seed Packets from China](#)

The USDA urges anyone who receives an unsolicited package of seeds to immediately contact their [State plant regulatory official](#) or [APHIS State plant health director](#). 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.



Since July 2013, Mr. El-Lissy has served as the Deputy Administrator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services' Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). In this position, he leads and directs a nationally dispersed staff that safeguards U.S. animal and plant resources from destructive pests and diseases and facilitates the global trade of U.S. agricultural products.