



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

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*Putting Science to Work for Society
Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment*

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA Asks Residents to Forward Unsolicited Packages of Seeds

New Haven - The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) and The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (CT DoAg) announce that the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has expanded the list nationally of locations where the public can send unsolicited seed packets. In Connecticut, please mail the seeds and packaging to the USDA Plant Protection and Quarantine office at USDA APHIS PPQ, 97 Barnes Road Unit 200, Wallingford, CT 06492. The seeds can also be dropped off at that address in a box specifically for that purpose.

Instructions for Mailing Seed Packets:

- Place the unopened seed packet and any packaging, including the mailing label in a mailing envelope. If the seed packets are open, first place the seeds and their packaging into a zip-lock bag, seal it, and then place everything into a mailing envelope.
- Please include your name, address, and phone number so that a State or Federal agriculture official can contact you for additional information, if needed.
- If you received other unsolicited items in addition to seeds, please only send the seeds.

If you are unable to ship the seed or have already planted the seed, please email The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (Kirby.Stafford@ct.gov or Victoria.Smith@ct.gov) or Chuck Baker at Charles.e.baker@usda.gov for instructions and provide the following information: Name, Address, Phone number, e-mail address.

Currently, there is no evidence indicating this is something other than a “brushing scam”, in which people receive unsolicited items from a seller who then posts false customer reviews to boost sales. Seeds for planting pose a significant risk for U.S. agriculture and natural resources because they can carry diseases

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or insects that may harm crops. Imported vegetable or agricultural seed must meet labeling and phytosanitary requirements and be inspected by APHIS and customs at the port of entry. The USDA is committed to preventing the unlawful entry of prohibited seeds and protecting U.S. agriculture from disease, invasive pests, and noxious weeds. Additional information is available at www.aphis.usda.gov.

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