

Department of Agriculture and Food R. LOGAN WILDE Commissioner

KELLY PEHRSON Deputy Commissioner

News Release For Immediate Release

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Utahns Who Have Received Unsolicited Packages Containing Seeds Encouraged to Deliver Contents to UDAF State Seed Lab for Testing

(Salt Lake City) The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) are working to assist Utahns who are receiving unsolicited packages from outside of the United States of America, containing plant seeds. Residents throughout the state have reported receiving packages they did not order, containing plant seed(s). UDAF will be hosting a press conference at 3:00 pm on July 28, 2020 at 350 N. Redwood Road, Salt Lake City, UT to address this issue in greater detail.

Foreign plant material may pose a threat to Utah's private and public lands by introducing invasive plants that can disrupt the ecosystem. Individuals who may have received an unsolicited package containing plant seeds are asked to give the package, in its entirety over to the UDAF's Plant Industry Division for analysis. Residents can mail their packages to:

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food ATTN: State Seed Lab PO Box 146500 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6500

Or drop them off at:

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food ATTN: State Seed Lab 350 N. Redwood Road Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

UDAF's State Seed Lab will continue identifying the seeds to determine whether they are on the Federal or State Noxious lists. Following the identification, the lab will destroy the material, to prevent it from entering Utah's ecosystem.

If residents cannot get the material to UDAF, they are asked to kill the seeds by baking them at 200 degrees for 40 minutes. Once the temperature and duration have been met, residents are

encouraged to allow the seeds to cool and then throw them away. Please do not put them in green waste for recycling.

UDAF will provide further details as they become available.

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