



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE
1220 N Street, Room A-372
Sacramento, CA 95814

PEST EXCLUSION ADVISORY

NO. 09-2007

DATE: April 3, 2007
TO: All County Agricultural Commissioners
FROM: Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
SUBJECT: California Markings and Certification Requirements

CDFA was recently notified by several counties that mail order shipments, sent from multiple companies including Audubon, Brecks, Burgess Seed & Plant, Direct Gardening, Four Seasons, Gurney, Gardens Alive, Henry Fields, House of Wesley, Inter-State, Michigan Bulb, Richard Owens Nursery, Simple Pleasures, Spring Hill, and Van Bourgondien, regularly arrive in California without proper markings and/or certification. In some cases, counties have contacted the shipper to request certification and have been told that not including certification for all origins is a deliberate business decision on the part of the shipper.

CDFA recommends that county inspectors carefully examine the origin statements and certificates on and inside mail order packages containing plant material. If certification or origin marking omissions occur, we advise inspectors to reject and destroy or return to shipper under the authority of California Food and Agricultural Code, Division 4, Part 2, Article 4, Section 6461.5. The following must be included with each shipment:

- The origin (where the plants were grown) of *all* plant material in the box, *even if there is more than one plant and/or more than one origin*, must be clearly stated on the outside of the package. This applies not only to the plant products the customer ordered but any free gift or sample that is included in the box.
- All applicable quarantines must be listed on a phytosanitary certificate or preprinted stamp or sticker placed on the outside of the package or on the invoice. The certificate, stamp, or sticker must list, by name or number, all the California state exterior quarantine(s) that apply to the plants in the shipment from the place of origin.

In many cases, plants originate in a state other than the state from which they are shipped. If this is the case, an agricultural official from the shipping state may re-certify each shipment after verifying that proper California certification was met prior to entering their state as outlined in the [County Pest Exclusion Procedural Training Manual](#), section 3.9.1c.

CDFA is in the process of contacting state departments of agriculture involved. We are requesting that they work with their shippers to ensure plant shipments meet California entry requirements. They are also being advised that shipments not meeting California entry requirements may be rejected and destroyed or returned to shipper.

For questions regarding this advisory, contact Amber Morris at (916) 654-0312 or by email at amorris@cdfa.ca.gov.



Packages that lack proper origin or quarantine certification. Photos courtesy of Jeff Dolf and Caryn Moen