

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
Title 3 of the California Code of Regulation Section 3060.3 Plants That Are Pests

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
45 – Day Notice

The Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) proposes to amend Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 3060.3 Plants That Are Pests.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is not scheduled. However, a public hearing will be held if any interested person, or his or her duly authorized representative, submits a written request for a public hearing to the Department no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person or his or her authorized representative may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulations to the Department. Comments may be submitted by USPS, FAX or email. The written comment period closes on March 30, 2026. The Department will consider only comments received at the Department offices by that date or postmarked no later than March 30, 2026. Submit comments to:

Erin Lovig, Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor
California Department of Food and Agriculture Plant Health and
Pest Prevention Services
1220 N St,
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.403.6650
Permits@cdfa.ca.gov

Questions regarding the substance of the proposed regulation should be directed to Erin Lovig. In her absence, you may contact Rachel Avila at (916) 698-2947 or rachel.avila@cdfa.ca.gov.

Unless there are substantial changes to the proposed regulations prior to adoption, the Department of Food and Agriculture may adopt the proposal as set forth in this notice without further notice to the public. Following the public hearing, if one is requested, or following the written comment period if none is requested, the Department, at its own motion, or at the instance of any interested person, may adopt the proposal substantially as set forth without further notice.

AUTHORITY

The Department proposes to amend Section 3060.3 pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 407, 5322, and 6901 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC).

REFERENCE

The Department proposes this action to implement, interpret and make specific Sections 403, 407, 5322, and 6901 of the FAC.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

This amendment will add plants rated as A or B, as defined in CCR 3162, as a pest plant.

The proposed amendment will direct the public to a more complete listing of pest plants in California. Currently plants that are pests are listed in multiple locations, the 4500 list and the website location included in 3162. This amendment adds the plants with a pest rating to Section 3060.3, allowing the public to correctly identify pest plants.

EXISTING LAWS & REGULATIONS

Existing law, FAC section 403, provides that the department shall prevent the introduction and spread of injurious insect or animal pests, plant diseases, and noxious weeds.

Existing law, FAC section 407, provides that the Secretary may adopt such regulations as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this code which the Secretary is directed or authorized to administer or enforce.

Existing law, FAC section 5322, provides that the Secretary may establish, maintain, and enforce quarantine, eradication, and such other regulations as are in her opinion necessary to circumscribe and exterminate or prevent the spread of any pest which is described in FAC section 5321.

Existing law, FAC section 6901, provides that the director by regulation shall provide for periodic inspections of nurseries and may prescribe standards of cleanliness for nursery stock which is produced or sold within the state.

ANTICIPATED BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

The amendment adds plants rated as A or B as pest plants to Section 3060.3. The Department has been maintaining a pest plant list throughout the state since 1962 without causing significant creation or elimination of jobs. These actions have helped to maintain the economic baseline

When pest plants become established within California, such plants greatly affect the general public. Directing the public to the plants currently rated as pests lowers the risk of these plants being artificially introduced to the state. By amending this regulation it will assist the public to correctly identify pest plants, there will be less risk of plants known to be pests entering California. Lowering the risks will help prevent potential infestations.

The general public benefits by having a native environment and agriculture safe from these pest plants.

The adoption of these regulations benefits home gardeners who grow material for consumption and/or ornamentals in various rural and urban landscapes. By preventing infestation with pest plants the regulations eliminate the need for hosts to be treated to mitigate infestations.

There are economic benefits to the State's general fund from these regulations. Pest plants can infest a broad array of field crops. Established infestations can reduce crop, threaten export markets, and are extremely difficult to eradicate. By having plant pests listed clearly we will reduce the chances of future incursions and help maintain the economic baseline.

There is no existing, comparable federal regulations or statute.

There are no known specific benefits to worker safety or the health of California residents.

EVALUATION OF INCONSISTENCY / INCOMPATIBILITY WITH EXISTING STATE REGULATIONS

As required by Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(3)(D), the Department has conducted an evaluation of Section 3060.3 and has determined that they are not inconsistent or incompatible with existing state regulations. After conducting a review for any regulations that would relate to or affect this area, the Department has concluded that these are the only regulations concerning plant pests in California.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

Prior to conducting any action authorized by this regulation, the Department shall comply with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq. as amended) and the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et. seq.).

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Department has made the following initial determinations:

Mandate on local agencies or school districts: None.

Cost to any local agency or school district requiring reimbursement pursuant to 17500 et seq: None

Cost or savings to any state agency: None

Other nondiscretionary cost or savings imposed on local agencies: None.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None.

Cost impacts on a representative private person or business: The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states: The cost impacts are expected to be none and minimal/non-consequential. The Department makes the initial determination that the proposed action will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact.

Significant effect on housing costs: None

Small business determination: The proposed action will not affect small business because compliance activities are currently being performed by existing staff throughout quarantine areas within the State without any impact on small business.

RESULTS OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS / ASSESSMENT

The amendment is designed to prevent or minimize the spread of pest plants by amending Section 3060.3. The Department has made an assessment that the amendment to this regulation would: (1) not create or eliminate jobs within California, (2) not create new business or eliminate existing businesses within California, (3) not affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California, (4) is expected to benefit the health and welfare of California residents, (5) is expected to benefit the state's environment, and is (6) not expected to benefit workers' safety.

Health and welfare: The proposed action will benefit the health and welfare of California residents by making it more likely that pest plants would be prevented from spreading within California, thus protecting the agricultural sector. Maintaining the economic baseline is important to the health and welfare of California residents.

The state's environment: The proposed action will benefit the state's environment by increasing the chance that pest plants would be prevented from spreading within California. If pests were to spread throughout California it could adversely impact private and commercial landscape plantings, local, regional, state and national parks, other recreational sites, open habitats, and wild lands. Affected plants could become less vigorous and may produce fewer seeds. Plants/trees with low propagule output can result in major changes to plant community structure. Therefore, this amended regulation may contribute to the preservation of the natural environment.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

The Department must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed, would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action, or would be more cost-effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law.

The Department invites interested persons to present alternatives during the written comment period.

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS, TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS, AND RULEMAKING FILE

The Department has prepared an initial statement of reasons for the proposed action, and has made available all the information upon which its proposal is based and the express terms of the proposed action. The Department has posted the information regarding this proposed regulatory action on its Internet website (www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/Regulations.html). A copy of the initial statement of reasons and the proposed regulations in underline and strikeout form may be obtained upon request. The location of the information on which the proposal is based may also be obtained upon request. In addition, the final statement of reasons will be available upon request. Requests should be directed to the contact named herein.

AVAILABILITY OF CHANGED OR MODIFIED TEXT

After the comment period and considering all timely and relevant comments received, the Department may adopt the proposed regulations substantially as described in this notice. If the Department makes modifications which are sufficiently related to the originally proposed text, it will make the modified text (with the changes clearly indicated) available to the public for at least 15 days before the Department adopts the regulations as revised. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency officer named herein. The Department will accept written comments on the modified regulations for 15 days after the date on which they are made available.

AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Upon its completion, copies of the Final Statement of Reasons may be obtained by contacting the agency officer named herein.