



Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Weights & Measures ■ County of Santa Barbara

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NEWS RELEASE

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(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) - Recently, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has become aware of a number of reports regarding “mysterious and unsolicited seeds from China”. These seed packages are often labeled as jewelry, being shipped to homeowners throughout the US, including Santa Barbara County. CDFA is communicating with the United States Department of Agriculture to determine any necessary actions for shipments received in California.

In the meantime, the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office (SBCAC) is instructing residents not to open, plant, or dispose of any unsolicited seed packets received, but to contact their nearest SBCAC office. “Invasive species can devastate the environment, displace or destroy native plants and insects, severely damage crops, and poison livestock. Taking steps to prevent their introduction is the most effective method of reducing both the risk of invasive species infestations and the cost to control and mitigate those infestations,” stated Cathy Fisher, Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner.

Unopened seed packets should be held by the resident and contact the SBCAC office for pick up, or drop-off instructions. If you did plant the seeds, please contact the SBCAC for additional direction.

The Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office may be contacted at:

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