



# Calaveras County Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures

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## Beware of unsolicited seed deliveries from China



Calaveras residents are instructed not to open mailed unsolicited seed packets (example shown) and to contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office for instructions.

April 4, 2025

Unsolicited shipments of seed packets from China have shown up in mailboxes in locations all over the United States, including Calaveras County. Although suspected as a “brushing scam” to allow the seller to leave positive feedback on their own products, the seeds could be invasive and/or harmful to plants and livestock.

Both the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have warned counties about the trend and have given specific instructions to local county agricultural commissioner offices to report received packages. Residents are instructed not to open unsolicited seed packets, reship them, or throw them out. Improper disposal could lead to germination and potential dispersal of invasive species and/or quarantine pests. Unopened seed packets should be surrendered to an agriculture department official so they may document then properly destroy the seeds.

People on social media have questioned the legitimacy of the unsolicited seeds from China, to which Calaveras's Agricultural Commissioner, Jesse Fowler, stated, “This matter should be taken seriously and is not fake. I strongly urge residents who receive similar packages to report them to your local Agricultural Commissioner's Office.” She further reported that yesterday a Calaveras resident did the right thing, contacted her office, and voluntarily surrendered a received seed packet to staff at her San Andreas office.

Contact the Calaveras County Department of Agriculture at 209-754-6504 for more information.

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