

FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DA-2010-59
December 20, 2010

SUBJECT: Federal Order to Require a Phytosanitary Certificate for shipments of Cut Flowers from the Netherlands

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

This SPRO letter provides notification that Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is issuing this Federal Order to prevent the introduction or the dissemination of several harmful pests into the United States, including *Helicoverpa armigera* (Cotton bollworm), *Mamestra brassicae* (Cabbage moth), *Autographa gamma* (Silver-Y moth), on Cut Flowers from the Netherlands. This Federal Order is effective on January 5, 2011.

Pursuant to this Federal Order, APHIS will require that shipments of cut flowers from the Netherlands be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate certifying that the regulated articles have been inspected and are considered to be free from quarantine pests to prevent the introduction and establishment of the pests described in detail in the attached Federal Order.

A small number of specific genera of cut flowers from the Netherlands will be exempt from the phytosanitary certificate requirement which will be listed in the "Cut Flowers and Greenery" Plant Importation Manual.

For additional information concerning this Federal Order, you may contact the Project Coordinator, Marc Phillips, at (301) 734-4394 or by email at marc.phillips@aphis.usda.gov.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for
Rebecca A. Bech
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine

FEDERAL QUARANTINE ORDER
Importation of Cut Flowers from the Netherlands;

December 20, 2010

The purpose and goal of this Federal Order is to prevent the entry or introduction of the quarantine pests *Helicoverpa armigera* (Cotton bollworm), *Mamestra brassicae* (Cabbage moth), *Autographa gamma* (Silver-Y moth) as well as several other quarantine pests listed in the appendix. The Cotton bollworm, Cabbage moth and Silver-Y moth are harmful plant pests which spread via host commodities imported from foreign countries where these pests are currently present. These three pests are not known to occur in the United States. This Federal Order is issued pursuant to the regulatory authority provided by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2000, as amended, Section 412(a), 7 U.S.C. 7712(a), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the importation, entry, exportation or movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant product, biological control organism, noxious weed, article or means of conveyance, if the Secretary determines that the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the introduction into the United States or the dissemination of a plant pest or noxious weed within the United States.

Three lepidopteran plant pests of the family Noctuidae have been intercepted numerous times upon cut flowers exported from the Netherlands. These plant pests are known to feed upon a wide range of hosts.

Helicoverpa armigera is a pest of major importance in most areas where it occurs. It damages a wide variety of food, fiber, oilseed, fodder and horticultural crops, with the greatest damage to cotton, tomato, maize, alfalfa and tobacco.

Mamestra brassicae is a serious pest of concern on *Brassica spp.* crops and can also be a serious pest on legumes, lettuce, spinach, beets, tomato, potato, onion and grape.

Autographa gamma is a destructive and migratory insect that feeds on more than 200 different plant species including *Brassica spp.*, cotton, grape, legumes, tomato, potato, alfalfa and corn.

This quarantine action is necessary because the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has determined that the introduction and establishment of Cotton bollworm, Cabbage moth, or Silver-Y moth poses a serious threat to several economically important food, fiber, fodder and horticultural crops grown in the United States. None of these insects, or those listed in the appendix, are currently known to be established in North America. Cut flowers may pose a pathway when they are present in the environment for a variety of purposes, including funeral displays, and when they are discarded in the environment in mulch piles or refuse heaps.

After conducting an analysis of pest interception data for cut flowers from the Netherlands, we have determined that cut flowers originating from and/or exported from the Netherlands are a pathway for numerous pests, (see Appendix), and pose a high risk of introduction into the United States.

Therefore, the APHIS Administrator has determined that all admissible cut flowers exported from the Netherlands, (including cut flowers from the Netherlands exported from a third country), must meet the following requirements:

- All cut flowers must be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate from the Netherlands certifying that the regulated articles have been inspected and are considered to be free from quarantine pests.

The phytosanitary certificate requirement may be waived by APHIS for cut flowers determined by the Administrator to present a low risk of pest introduction based on review of interception records and other information available to the Administrator.

This Federal Import Quarantine Order is effective the 5th day of January 2011.

APPENDIX
Quarantine Pests intercepted on Cut Flowers from the
Netherlands

FAMILY	TAXON
Noctuidae	<i>Helicoverpa armigera</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Mamestra brassicae</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
Noctuidae	<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i> (Boisduval)
Noctuidae	<i>Spodoptera litura</i> (Fabricius)
Chrysomelidae	<i>Chaetocnema tibialis</i> (Illiger)
Chrysomelidae	<i>Oulema gallaeciana</i> (Heyden)
Miridae	<i>Lygus gemellatus</i> (Herrich-schaeffer)
Miridae	<i>Lygus maritimus</i> (Wagner)
Miridae	<i>Lygus pratensis</i> (Linnaeus)
Miridae	<i>Pinalitus conspurcatus</i> Reuter
Pseudococcidae	<i>Delottococcus proteae</i> (Hall)
Pseudococcidae	<i>Phenacoccus hakeae</i> Williams
Pseudococcidae	<i>Phenacoccus stelli</i> (Brain)
Thripidae	<i>Scirtothrips aurantii</i> Faure
Thripidae	<i>Thrips angusticeps</i> Uzel
Thripidae	<i>Thrips major</i> Uzel
Hygromiidae	<i>Xeropicta krynickii</i> (Krynicky)
Hyphomycetes	<i>Chalara urceolata</i> Nag Raj & W.B. Kendr.
Hyphomycetes	<i>Helicosingula leucadendri</i> P.S. van Wyk, Marasas, Baard & Knox-Dav.
Hyphomycetes	<i>Pseudocercospora protearum</i> var. <i>leucadendri</i> (Cooke) U. Braun & Crous
Pucciniaceae	<i>Uromyces maireanus</i> P. Syd. & Syd.