



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

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March 2, 2017

Dear Retailer,

The State of Alaska, Division of Agriculture would like to remind retail store managers of the plant health requirements for the sale of seed potatoes and tomato plants from out-of-state sources. In order to prevent commodities infected with Potato Late Blight disease (*Phytophthora infestans*) from entering Alaska, the Division of Agriculture has established a quarantine, which has been in effect since 1999 and summarized below.

RESTRICTIONS: The following regulated articles are prohibited into Alaska except under the following conditions:

1. Seed potatoes or potato plants:
 - a. must be produced as certified seed potatoes in the state or country of origin and be certified; and
 - b. must be inspected in storage with no late blight found in the lot; and
 - c. must be inspected at the shipping point with no late blight found.
2. Tomato plants imported from outside Alaska: (Tomato seeds are excluded):
 - a. must be grown in a nursery/greenhouse inspected and found free of late blight; and
 - b. must be inspected at the shipping point and no late blight is found; and
 - c. must be treated prior to shipment with a registered fungicide for late blight disease control.
3. Each shipment of seed potatoes/ plants and tomato plants into Alaska shall be accompanied by an official certificate issued by the government regulatory agency in the state or country of origin assuring that the conditions of this quarantine have been met.

Please be advised that staff from the Division of Agriculture may conduct inspections to ensure compliance with these requirements. Seed potatoes and tomato plants that do not meet the above requirements are prohibited and therefore not permitted for sale.

Thank you for your efforts in assisting with keeping this devastating crop disease out of Alaska. If you would like additional information or have questions about this important subject please contact Mia Kirk at (907) 761-3853, mia.kirk@alaska.gov. Also, if you would like to source Alaska Grown Certified Seed Potatoes, please see the attached list of available growers and varieties or you may view the list on our website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/Inspection/2017AKCertifiedSeedPotatoGrowersList.pdf>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur Keyes".

Arthur Keyes
Director, Division of Agriculture