

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

SARAH PALIN, GOVERNOR

- **CENTRAL OFFICE**
1800 GLENN HIGHWAY, SUITE 12
PALMER, ALASKA 99645-6736
PHONE: (907) 745-7200
FAX: (907) 745-7112
- **NORTHERN REGION OFFICE**
3700 AIRPORT WAY
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99709-4699
PHONE: (907) 451-2780
FAX: (907) 451-2751
- **PLANT MATERIALS CENTER**
5310 S. BODENBURG SPURR
PALMER, ALASKA 99645-9706
PHONE: (907) 745-4469
FAX: (907) 746-1568

April 21, 2009

Dear Alaska Nurseries and Garden Centers,

As springtime planting approaches, the Division of Agriculture would like to remind you of the plant health requirements for the sale of seed potatoes and tomato plants in Alaska. In order to prevent commodities infected with Potato Late Blight (*Phytophthora infestans*) entering into Alaska, the Division of Agriculture has established a quarantine. This quarantine is in effect and summarized below.

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

1. Seed potatoes or potato plants:
 - a. are produced as certified seed potatoes in the state or country of origin and are certified; and
 - b. are inspected in storage and no late blight is found in the lot; and
 - c. are inspected at the shipping point and no late blight is found.
2. Tomato plants (Tomato seeds are not regulated articles):
 - a. are grown in a nursery, or greenhouse inspected and found free of late blight; and
 - b. are inspected at the shipping point and no late blight is found; and
 - c. are treated prior to shipment with a registered fungicide for late blight disease control.
3. Each shipment of regulated articles into Alaska shall be accompanied by an official Certificate issued by the government regulatory agency in the state or county of origin assuring that the conditions of this quarantine have been met.

Also, under Alaska Administrative Code (ACC) 11 ACC 32.040, all seed potatoes sold, offered or displayed for sale must have attached to each container or the display, the applicable seed certification tag issued by the official seed certifying agency of the state or country of origin. Staff from the Division of Agriculture may be visiting your establishment to review plant health certificates and monitor compliance with this requirement.

In addition to this, please be aware that potted plants being imported from outside Alaska have the potential of harboring weeds and pests, thereby accidentally introducing them into the Alaska environment.

Thank you for assisting in the control of this devastating plant disease, as well as reducing the risk of introducing invasive weeds and pests into 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 or Barb Hanson at (907) 761-3854, Barb.Hanson@alaska.gov or visit our web site at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/ag/>.

Sincerely,



Douglas Warner
Manager, Marketing and Inspection Programs
Division of Agriculture

“Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans.”

Below is a list of Alaska Certified Seed Potato Growers. These growers can provide Alaska Grown seed potatoes to reduce the risk of importing of invasive pests and diseases.

Authorized Potato Seed Growers

Mat-Su Borough:

Jay Dearborn	980 S. Trunk Rd., Palmer, AK 99645	745-3501
Little Susitna Farm	8470 N. Russet Rd, Palmer AK 99645	746-5496
Art Peterson	HC 89 Willow, AK 99688	733-2372
Pyrah's Pioneer Peak Farm	PO Box 966, Palmer, AK 99645	745-4511
VanderWeele Farms	PO Box 461, Palmer AK 99645	745-3597

Fairbanks Area:

Ron Nelson	PO Box 70888, Fairbanks, AK 99707	322-6877
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Nenana Area:

Bill Spencer	PO Box 501, Nenana, AK 99760	832-5280
Ebbesson Farms	PO Box 370, Nenana, AK 99760	479-0440

Delta Junction Area:

Raymond Brasier	PO Box 483, Delta Junction, AK 99737	895-4961
Frank Borman	HC 60 Box 4199-1, Delta Junction, AK 99737	488-2924

Kodiak Area:

Marilyn Guilmet	PO Box 625, Kodiak, AK 99615	486-3099
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