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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to remind you of the requirements you must follow for movement of plant material into Imperial County. There are many quarantines which must be observed. The most complex is for the glassy-winged sharpshooter and detailed directions for compliance follow. However, there are a few other quarantines that you should be aware of and they are listed at the end of this letter.

There is a State Interior Quarantine in place to prevent artificial movement of the glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS). The GWSS is a hardy insect which feeds on many common landscape plants and crops. It carries and spreads *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacterium which is deadly to many plants. Imperial County is the only Southern California County that is not infested with the glassy-winged sharpshooter, and is designated as an enforcing county.

A summary of the quarantine requirements for entry of GWSS-host nursery stock from infested counties:

- Nursery stock must be purchased from a nursery that is under Compliance Agreement with the Agricultural Commissioner's office in that County. The plants should enter Imperial County with paperwork that includes the GWSS Compliance Agreement Number stamp, the required blue tag (see below), and Certificate of Quarantine Compliance (CQC) if applicable.
- Every shipment of nursery stock from an infested county must be accompanied by a Warning Hold for Inspection Certificate also known as a blue tag. As stated on the blue tag, this requires the receiver to hold the shipment off sale upon arrival and call our office for an inspection. It is very important that we be notified immediately upon arrival of the plant shipment. Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please call as early as possible. If you intend to bring in plants on a Saturday or Holiday, you must notify our office in advance.
- Landscapers that have their own growing ground or holding yard where they store nursery stock are required to be licensed as a nursery. Landscapers that do not hold or store that stock prior to its delivery to the planting site do not need a license.
- All landscapers must comply with the requirements listed above for every shipment brought into the County. You also must hold the stock at its destination (preferably away from other plants) and call our office for an inspection - you may not plant any of the nursery stock until the plants have been inspected and released by our office. If you are buying and transporting nursery stock into Imperial County, it is your responsibility to obtain the required documents from the origin nursery and call for the inspection upon arrival.
- For every shipment, you must have a proof of ownership document for the nursery stock.

Penalties for failure to comply with the quarantine requirements listed above:

- Any violation of quarantine requirements is an infraction punishable by a fine of \$1,000 for the first offense. For a second or subsequent offense within three years, the violation is punishable as a misdemeanor (Food and Ag Code, Section 5309).
- In lieu of any civil action, the Agricultural Commissioner may levy a civil penalty for up to \$2,500 for each violation (Food and Ag Code, Section 5311).
- In addition to any other action taken, any violation of these requirements may be liable civilly in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for each violation (Food and Ag Code, Section 5310).
- Anyone that negligently or intentionally violates any quarantine regulation and imports a GWSS-infested plant that results in an infestation, or the spread of an infestation, may be civilly liable in an amount up to \$25,000 for each violation (Food and Ag Code, Section 5028(c)).

Other restricted plant materials (if you intend to bring in any of the following commodities from outside Imperial County please contact us before the shipment date):

- Citrus species - All Citrus species are restricted from most locations within California.
- Phoenix palms - All palms of the Phoenix genus (this includes *Phoenix roebelinii*, a common landscape plant) originating in California are prohibited, unless it is from certain portions of Riverside County.
- Florida nursery stock - Must be certified for nematodes, imported fire ants, and potentially other pests depending upon the hosts.
- Arizona nursery stock - Must be certified for Ozonium Root Rot.
- Also, if you intend to remove any plants from the soil and ship them out of Imperial County you must be certified free from Ozonium Root Rot. To do so you must be part of our program and you should contact our office.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (442) 265-1500.

Sincerely,

Margo Sanchez
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's Office