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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 98-035-4]

Importation of *Phalaenopsis* spp. From Taiwan in Growing Media; Availability of Environmental Assessment and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of reopening and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We are reopening and extending the comment period for an environmental assessment for a proposal to allow orchids of the genus *Phalaenopsis* to be imported from Taiwan in approved growing media. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments.

DATES: We will consider all comments that we receive on or before July 9, 2003.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by postal mail/commercial delivery or by e-mail. If you use postal mail/commercial delivery, please send four copies of your comment (an original and three copies) to: Docket No. 98-035-3, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3C71, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. 98-035-3. If you use e-mail, address your comment to regulations@aphis.usda.gov. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message and "Docket No. 98-035-3" on the subject line.

You may read any comments that we receive on this environmental assessment in our reading room. The reading room is located in room 1141 of

the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

APHIS documents published in the **Federal Register**, and related information, including the names of organizations and individuals who have commented on APHIS dockets, are available on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. William Thomas, Import Specialist, Phytosanitary Issues Management, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 140, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236; (301) 734-6799.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 1, 1998, we published in the **Federal Register** (63 FR 46403-46406, Docket No. 98-035-1) a proposal to amend the regulations in 7 CFR 319.37-8 to add orchids of the genus *Phalaenopsis* to the list of plants that may be imported from all areas of the world in an approved growing medium subject to specified growing, inspection, and certification requirements. We accepted comments on our proposal for a total of 90 days, ending December 1, 1998.¹

In response to comments received on the proposed rule, APHIS narrowed the application of the rule to *Phalaenopsis* spp. from Taiwan only and entered into informal section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to assess the potential effects of the proposed action on endangered or threatened species, as required under the Endangered Species Act. On April 7, 2003, FWS concluded the section 7 consultation process by concurring with APHIS's determination that the importation of *Phalaenopsis* spp. from Taiwan in growing media will not adversely affect federally listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or their habitats.

Upon receiving concurrence from FWS, APHIS prepared an environmental

assessment in accordance with: (1) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), (2) regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), (3) USDA regulations implementing NEPA (7 CFR part 1b), and (4) APHIS' NEPA Implementing Procedures (7 CFR part 372).

On May 9, 2003, we published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 24915, Docket No. 98-035-3) a notice announcing the availability of the environmental assessment. In that notice, we requested public comments on the environmental assessment, which is titled "Proposed Rule for the Importation of Moth Orchids (*Phalaenopsis* spp.) in Growing Media From the Republic of China (Taiwan)" and dated April 2003.

Comments on the environmental assessment were required to be received on or before June 9, 2003. We are reopening and extending the comment period on Docket No. 98-035-3 until July 9, 2003. This action will allow interested persons additional time to prepare and submit comments. We will also consider all comments received between June 9, 2003 (the day after the close of the original comment period) and the date of this notice.

Please note that on June 4, 2003, we made a correction to the version of the environmental assessment that had been posted on our website since May 9, 2003. This correction involved removing references to a specific document (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Policy Analysis and Development. 2002. *PAD Response to Public Comments on NPR in Docket 98-035-1*, 8 pp.) and replacing them with references to a personal communication. This correction has no substantive bearing on the environmental assessment, and is reflected in the version currently posted on APHIS's website.

The environmental assessment may be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/es/ppqdocs.html>. You may request paper copies of the environmental assessment from the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when requesting copies. The environmental assessment is also

¹The comment period on the proposed rule was extended from 60 to 90 days in a notice published in the **Federal Register** on October 29, 1998 (63 FR 57932).

available for review in our reading room (the location and hours of the reading room are listed under the heading **ADDRESSES** at the beginning of this notice).

Done in Washington, DC, this 5th day of June 2003.

Peter Fernandez,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food and Nutrition Service

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Generic Clearance To Conduct Formative Research for Development of Nutrition Education Materials and Related Tools for Food and Nutrition Service Population Groups

AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice invites the general public and other interested parties to comment on a proposed information collection. This information collection will conduct research in support of FNS' goal of delivering science-based nutrition education to targeted audiences. From development through testing of materials and tools with the target audience, FNS plans to conduct data collections that involve formative research including focus groups, interviews (dyad, triad, telephone, etc.), surveys and web-based collection tools.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before August 11, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments may be sent to Judy F. Wilson, Director, Nutrition Services Staff, Food and Nutrition Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 3101 Park Center Drive, Room 1012, Alexandria, VA 22302. Comments may also be faxed to the attention of Judy F. Wilson at (703) 305-2576.

All written comments will be open for public inspection at the office of the Food and Nutrition Service during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday) at 3101 Park Center Drive, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, Room 1012.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval. All comments will be a matter of public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to Judy F. Wilson, (703) 305-2585 or Marion Hinners, (703) 305-2116.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Generic Clearance to Conduct Formative Research for Development of Nutrition Education Materials and Related Tools for FNS Population Groups.

OMB Number: Not yet assigned.

Expiration Date: N/A.

Type of Request: New collection.

Abstract: This information collection is based on the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended, the National School Lunch Act of 1966, as amended, the Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended, the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, as amended, and the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983, as amended. This request for approval of information collection is necessary to obtain input into the development of nutrition education interventions for population groups served by the U.S. Department of Agriculture—Food and Nutrition Service (USDA—FNS).

Diet has a significant impact on the health of citizens and is linked to four leading causes of disease, which can reduce the quality of life and cause premature death. While these diet-related problems affect all Americans, they have a greater impact on the disadvantaged populations reached by many of the FNS programs. One of FNS' goals includes improving the nutrition of children and low-income families by providing access to program benefits and nutrition education. The FNS programs include Child Nutrition, Food Distribution, Food Stamp and Supplemental Foods Programs.

The basis of our approach rests on the philosophies that all health

communications and social marketing activities must be science-based, theoretically grounded, audience-driven, and results-oriented. Secondly, consumer-based health communications require a focus on specific target audiences, encouraging positive behaviors in culturally relevant ways, unique benefits and supports for adopting the new behavior, insights into the most appropriate time and place to deliver messages, and striking the right tone to enhance attention and action to the message. Interventions need to be crafted in such a way that they can be delivered through different types of media and in an array of formats for diverse audiences.

FNS initiated a nutrition education and promotion campaign, entitled Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ (the Campaign) in FY 2000 (OMB number 0584-0502). The Campaign is designed to convey science-based, behavior-focused nutrition messages about healthy eating and physical activity to children eligible to participate in FNS nutrition assistance programs and their caregivers. The messages are based on the 2000 Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs) and the Food Guide Pyramid. A most recent approval was granted for information collection (OMB number 0584-0517) for four projects: Phase II of Eat Smart. Play Hard.™, Campaign Web Site Development, Cultural Adaptation of Campaign Materials for Hispanic Audiences and Dietary Guidelines Low-Literacy Materials Development. Future projects will support the Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ Campaign, which has been designated as a specific administration action in the President's Healthier US initiative.

Fundamental to FNS' success in delivering science-based nutrition messages and reaching diverse and low literacy segments of the population is obtaining qualitative feedback from key components of the target audience on the communication strategies and interventions that will be developed. This formative research is essential to advancing Eat Smart. Play Hard.™ as well as other FNS nutrition education efforts. Formative input and testing activities described will help in the development of more effective tools and communication strategies. Collection of this information will increase FNS' ability to formulate nutrition education interventions that resonate with the target population of low-income American families, who have the highest need and can derive the most benefit.

Formative research methods and information collection will include focus groups, interviews (dyad, triad,