

INFORMATION NOTICE

Genetically Modified (GM) Petunia

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suspects that Irish plant growers / nurseries may have unwittingly purchased GM petunia varieties.

The Agency has been informed that the following varieties of orange / salmon / red coloured petunia have been identified as being GM positive

- *Pegasus Orange Morn*
- *Pegasus Orange*
- *Pegasus Table Orange*
- *Potunia Plus Papaya*
- *Go!Tunia Orange*
- *Bonnie Orange / Bonnie Orange '15 / Orange '15*
- *Famous Electric Orange*
- *African Sunset*
- *Sanguna Salmon*
- *Charms Flame 2-140*
- *Sentuna 2.0 Gsehll Orange*
- *Sentuna 2.0 Rose Coral*
- *Cascadias Red Lips*
- *Capella Red*
- *orange yellow center 749 (07336)*
- *Viva Orange*
- *Viva Fire*
- *Viva Orange Vein*
- ***Bonnie Red '14***
- ***Trixi® mixes La Bomba and Coco Bello – the variety Bonnie Red '14 is a component in Trixi® mixes La Bomba and Coco Bello***

The nature of the genetic modification is such that the flower produces the same colour compound as in orange/red flowered pelargoniums. This does not make the varieties hazardous to human or animal health or the environment, but the GM varieties must be withdrawn from the market as they are not authorised for sale or distribution within the EU.

It has been reported that plants of the GM positive varieties were allegedly supplied by the following companies in Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Germany	<p>Volmary GmbH, Postfach 2721, 48014 Münster, Germany</p> <p>Selecta Klemm GmbH & Co. KG, Hanfäcker 10, 70378 Stuttgart, Germany (producer?: Van Zaal, Poleweg 12, 142 PB De Kwakel, The Netherlands)</p>
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Denmark	GASA Young Plants, Denmark
The Netherlands	<p>Florensis B.V., Langeweg 79, 3342 LD Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, P.O. Box 32, NL3330 AA Zwijndrecht, The Netherlands</p> <p>Syngenta Seeds B.V.; Westeinde 62 / Postbus 2, 1600 AA Enkhuizen, The Netherlands</p> <p>Dümmen Orange B.V. (partner of Dümmen GmbH)</p> <p>Takii Europe B.V.</p>

The abovementioned GM petunia varieties must be immediately removed from market and production and destroyed by burning, autoclaving, steaming, boiling, freezing, desiccation, composting, crushing or by herbicides. If the plant material is destroyed through composting, the composting may be carried out on the nursery's / grower's own grounds or the material may be sent to a composting facility once it has been made non-viable by shredding or desiccation. The growth media must also be inactivated if it is likely to contain non-germinated GM petunia seeds.

The EPA requests that any grower / nursery / garden centre / plant retailer in receipt of any of the abovementioned GM petunia varieties to inform the Agency at the following e-mail address b.murray@epa.ie.

If you have any further queries or otherwise in relation to this matter you may contact myself, Bernie Murray, at 053 9160600.