

New plant varieties are valuable intellectual property

The following acts related to protected varieties will be punished under the Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act

Trying to take seeds or seedlings (seeds and seedlings of flowers and vegetables, prunings of fruit trees, beans, etc.) labeled as a "protected variety" or "export prohibited" outside of Japan.

Propagation of seeds or seedlings of a protected variety and hand over them to another person without the permission of the breeder's right holder.

Example of export prohibition labels

Nourin Yellow (registered variety) Export Prohibited (refer to public notice (MAFF website))

Penalties for intentional violation of the Plant Variety Protection and Seed Act



Up to 10 million yen Imprison (Up to 300 million yen for corporations)



10 years





Intellectual Property Division, Export and International Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

2 03-6738-6443

MAFF's variety registration website at

https://www.maff.go.jp/j/shokusan/hinshu/

