



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

CINDY HYDE-SMITH  
COMMISSIONER

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce  
Suspends License of Johnston Seed Company**

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce (MDAC) has suspended the seed dealer license of Johnston Seed Company, Inc., of Ashburn, Georgia, for 15 violations of the Mississippi Pure Seed Law. The settlement resolves allegations that Johnston Seed Company failed to comply with state-issued stop sale orders for seed not in compliance with state law.

Included in the settlement agreement, Johnston Seed Company's seed dealer license will be suspended and all sales or delivery of seed in the state of Mississippi will be prohibited for a period of six months beginning July 1, 2013, and ending December 31, 2013. The company has also been ordered to pay \$15,000 in civil penalties and will be placed on probation for a period of two years following its license suspension. While on probation, they must submit a sample of all seed sold in the State of Mississippi for testing by MDAC's Seed Testing Laboratory prior to delivery. Any future violations of the Mississippi Pure Seed Law and its regulations will result in the revocation of Johnston Seed Company's seed dealer license.

The Mississippi Pure Seed Law is enforced by MDAC through the Bureau of Plant Industry and requires accurate labeling of all seed sold in the State of Mississippi for consumer protection. For additional information, contact the Bureau of Plant Industry at (662) 325-3390 or toll-free at 1-888-257-1285.

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