

**From:** [Arie Blom | Kolster B.V.](#)  
**To:** [Fee.Setting](#)  
**Subject:** Plant Patent fees  
**Date:** Friday, December 02, 2016 3:02:13 AM  
**Attachments:** [Commissioner of Patents.docx](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I kindly refer to the letter attached.

Met vriendelijke groet,  
With kind regards,

**Arie Blom**

Tuesday-Thursday-Friday



Commissioner of Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313  
USA

December 1, 2016

Dear Commissioner,

This letter is in reference to the proposed US Patent Fees, specifically the significant increases for US Plant Patent applications.

The US horticultural industry and public greatly benefits from the introduction of new plant varieties, also from other origin than the US. The process of breeding, selection and development of these new varieties typically takes a number of years and there are significant costs prior to introduction. The costs of a US Plant Patent is one of these costs and a significant increase in the US Patent Office fees could be prohibitive to many plant breeders' programs.

These new products are not sold in high volumes nor at high costs per unit. Therefore it can take many years to earn back the development costs, including the patent costs.

Increasing the US Plant Patent fees will increase the financial burden on these plant breeders and poses a financial barrier to the Applicants/Assignees from procuring US Plant Patent for their new plants.

On behalf of the US Plant Patent Applicants/Assignees (the plant breeders, breeding companies and licensees), we respectfully request that the US Patent Office reconsider these excessive increases on US Plant Patent applications.

Your attention is much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Arie Blom  
Kolster Holding BV  
Horteve Breeding BV