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## U.S. National - AP

### Thousands of Roses Destroyed at Border



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Fri Feb 13, 2:58 PM ET

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MIAMI - U.S. border officials destroyed about 10,000 roses that were imported illegally from South America in the pre-Valentine's Day ([news - web sites](#)) surge.



AP Photo

The flowers from Colombia and Ecuador were grown or distributed without payment of royalties or fees on trademark brands, said Jeffrey Baldwin, port director for U.S. Customs and Border Patrol at Miami International Airport.

Authorities have been destroying boxes of roses since late January, "and we're still looking," Baldwin said Thursday.

Agents said they acted on evidence from two flower industry groups that license the blooms and regulate patents and trademarks. Agents could then determine which rose boxes were stamped illegally with trademarks, perhaps containing flowers from illegal cuttings or unlicensed operations.

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About 70 percent of all cut flowers sold in the United States are imported, and about 85 percent of those come through Miami International Airport, according to the Society of American Florists and airport statistics.

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