



UPI Telephoto

The rare fruit tree — a flowering cherry or apricot — will, if it survives, end up in the National Arboretum

Nixon's Tree Is Quarantined

Washington

The U.S. Agriculture Department said yesterday that it had confiscated a 15-inch rare fruit tree that ex-President Nixon brought back to the United States from China last month.

The tree, believed to be either a small flowering cherry or apricot, is in the department's quarantine section to see if it is diseased. It is banned from the United States as a potential carrier of horticulture viruses.

A department spokesman said he did not know who gave Mr. Nixon the tree but said he would not get it back.

It is being held at the department's quarantine station in Glenn Dale, Md., where it will stay for four years. If it survives, it could be on public display at the National Arboretum here.

Agriculture inspectors took the tree off Mr. Nixon's plane when it landed in Los Angeles on February 29.

The former President apparently likes collecting trees. When he returned from his first trip to China in 1972 he brought back several miniature trees, which the spokesman said apparently were not subjected to quarantine. After his resignation, the trees were sent to the Arboretum. *Reuters*