PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE LAWN AND GARDEN STEEL FENCE POSTS FROM CHINA

Return completed questionnaire to:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Office of Investigations, Room 615 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436

So as to be received by the Commission by no later than March 4, 2003

The information called for in this questionnaire is for use by the United States International Trade Commission in connection with its antidumping investigation concerning lawn and garden steel fence posts from China (inv. No. 731-TA-1010 (Final)). The information requested in the questionnaire is requested under the authority of the Tariff Act of 1930, title VII. This report is mandatory and failure to reply as directed can result in a subpoena or other order to compel the submission of records or information in your possession (19 U.S.C. § 1333(a)). Further information on this questionnaire can be obtained from Mary Pedersen (202-205-3247).

Name of	firm		
Address			
City		State	Zip code
World W	/ide Web address		
	irm purchased lawn and garden steel fence the instruction booklet) from <u>any</u> source (c		
□NO	(Sign the certification below and prompt	tly return only this page of the qu	estionnaire to the Commission)
YES	(Read the instruction booklet carefully, or return the entire questionnaire to the Con		naire, sign the certification, and
	nformation herein supplied in response to tand that the information submitted is sul		
ded in this qu	rtification I also grant consent for the Con uestionnaire and throughout this investigat milar merchandise. (If you do not consen	tion in any other import-injury inv	vestigations conducted by the Comm
mission, its taining the r tigations rel	nat information submitted in this question employees, and contract personnel who records of this investigation or related productions of the eating to the programs and operations of the sign non-disclosure agreements.	are acting in the capacity of Co ceedings for which this informati	ommission employees, for developi ion is submitted, or in internal audit
ne and Title	of Authorized Official	 Date	
	-,	()	()
ature of Au	thorized Official	Phone	Fax

PART I.--GENERAL QUESTIONS

The questions in this questionnaire have been reviewed with market participants to ensure that issues of concern are adequately addressed and that data requests are sufficient, meaningful, and as limited as possible. Public reporting burden for this questionnaire is estimated to average 15 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the questionnaire. Send comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436.

hours	dollars	
	d address of establishment(s) covered or reporting guidelines). If your firm trading symbol.	
Is your firm owned	in whole or in part, by any other firm:)
	YesList the following information.	
Firm name	<u>Address</u>	Extent of ownership
Firm name Does your firm have importing lawn and a		ownership foreign, which are engaged in to the United States or which are
Does your firm have importing lawn and a engaged in exporting	any related firms, either domestic or garden steel fence posts from China in	ownership foreign, which are engaged in to the United States or which are

PART I.--GENERAL QUESTIONS--Continued

I-5.		e any related firms, either domes and garden steel fence posts?	tic or foreign, which	h are engaged	d in the
	□ _{No} □	YesList the following informa	tion.		
	Firm name	Address		Affiliation	
PART	II <u>PURCHASES</u>				
II-1.		below, your firm's purchases (e garden steel fence posts. Repor			
		(Quantity in 1,000 pounds, v	value in \$1,000)	_	-
		Item	2000	2001	2002
PUR	CHASES FROM U.S.	PRODUCERS:			
G	Quantity				
ν	′alue				
PUR	CHASES FROM CHIN	IA:			
G	Quantity				
ν	'alue				
PUR	CHASES FROM ALL	OTHER COUNTRIES:1	•		
G	Quantity				
V	′alue				
1	Please identify these	countries:	•		
II-2.		chase other steel posts of 1 pound	d or less per foot?		

PART II.--PURCHASES--Continued

II-3. If the relative shares of your firm's total purchases of lawn and garden steel fence posts from different sources (both domestic and foreign) have changed in the last three years, please list the country, state whether the relative share from that country has increased or decreased, and state the reason.

Country	Increase/decrease	Reason
If your firm has pu		steel fence posts from only one country, plea
explain the reasons	s for doing so.	
explain the reasons	s for doing so.	

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES

Although the wording of the questions in Part III is directed to purchasers of lawn and garden steel fence posts, if your firm purchases other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot (regardless of whether you also purchase lawn and garden steel fence posts), please answer the questions, making it clear as to whether your answers relate to lawn and garden steel fence posts, other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot, or to both. If your answers differ based on the type of post (lawn and garden steel fence posts vs. other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot), please indicate how they differ.

III-1.	Which of the following best describes your firm as a purchaser of lawn and garden steel fence posts (check all that apply, noting the specific end uses if known)?
	☐ DISTRIBUTOR (
	END USER (
	RETAILER (
	WHOLESALER (
	Other (

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

b) Are lawn and garden steel fence posts sold to customers together with other products (e.g., fencing)? Yes No If yes, is the pricing of lawn and garden steel fence posts affected by the product mix demand of the customers? Yes No If yes, please explain. Has the demand for lawn and garden steel fence posts changed since January 1, 2000? No YesPlease indicate the direction of change and identify the major factors that have contributed to this change. Are there other products (such as other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot) that could substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses? No YesPlease identify such substitutes.	Has the demand for lawn and garden steel fence posts changed since January 1, 2000? WesPlease indicate the direction of change and identify the major factor that have contributed to this change. Are there other products (such as other steel fence posts in their end uses?		
No YesPlease indicate the direction of change and identify the major factors that have contributed to this change. Are there other products (such as other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot) that could substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?	No YesPlease indicate the direction of change and identify the major factor that have contributed to this change. Are there other products (such as other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot) that could substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?	fencing)? Y affected by t	es No If yes, is the pricing of lawn and garden steel fence posts
Are there other products (such as other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot) that could substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?	Are there other products (such as other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot) that could substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?	—	
substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?	substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?	LII NO	· · ·
substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?	substituted for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?		that have contributed to this change.
No YesPlease identify such substitutes.	No YesPlease identify such substitutes.	Are there of	
	•		ner products (such as other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot) that could
		substituted f	ner products (such as other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot) that could for lawn and garden steel fence posts in their end uses?

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-5.	the same relative	to those for lawn and gar ar firm to shift purchases	den steel fence posts? Ha	eased, decreased, or remained ve changes in these relative el fence posts to the substitute
III-6.	Do your purchase	es of lawn and garden stee	el fence posts vary season	ally?
	□No	YesPlease explain.		
III-7.		for sales to your customend garden steel fence posts		or importers from which you
III-8.	Are you aware w produced or impo		en steel fence posts you ar	e purchasing are U.S
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
III-9.	Do you know the	manufacturer of the lawr	and garden steel fence pe	osts that you purchase?
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never

111-10.	To your knowledg goods you supply		re of and/or interested in th	e country of origin of the
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
III-11.	How frequently do	you make purchases (circle one) ?	
	daily weekly	monthly	other (
III-12.	Has this purchasin	g pattern changed signi	ificantly in the last 3 years,	and, if so, how?
III-13.	How many supplied	ers do you generally con	ntact before making a purc	hase?
III-14.	How frequently do	you change suppliers?	,	
III-15.			last 3 years, please list the and give the reasons for the	supplier, indicate whether the e change.

111 10.	the last 3 years?
	No YesPlease identify the firms and indicate how you become aware of them.
III-17.	Do your suppliers of lawn and garden fence posts also supply your firm with other products? Yes No If so, please note the supplier and the other products which are supplied to your firm.
III-18.	What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of a supplier's lawn and garden steel fence posts?

III-19.	Please list, in order of their importance, the three major factors generally considered by your firm in deciding from whom to purchase lawn and garden steel fence posts for any one order (examples include current availability, extension of credit, prearranged contracts, price, quality of product, range of supplier's product line of lawn and garden fence posts and other products, size of order, production/supply capacity, traditional supplier, distribution network capabilities, etc.).
	1
	2
	3.
	Other factors or comments:
III-20.	How often does your firm purchase the lawn and garden steel fence posts that are offered at the lowest price?
	Always Usually Sometimes Never
III-21.	Generally, when you make a purchase does your supplier set the terms, or are terms negotiable? Supplier sets Negotiable

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III-22.	Please list the names of any firms you considered price leaders in the lawn and garde posts market during January 2000-December 2002. A price leader is defined as (1) of firms that initiate a price change, either upward or downward, that is followed by oth (2) one or more firms that have a significant impact on prices. A price leader does not have to be the lowest priced supplier. For those firms identified as a price leader, ple the time period in which a price change was communicated, whether the price change upward or downward, and whether it covered a specific geographic region or a specific type.	one or more ner firms, or ot necessarily ease specify e was
III-23.	Please describe how the above firm(s) exhibited price leadership.	
III-24.	Since 2000, how frequently has the price of the lawn and garden steel fence posts yo purchasing changed?	u are
III-25.	Of the total cost of the lawn and garden steel fence posts that your firm purchases, ap what percent is accounted for by U.S. inland transportation costs (please answer sepa each of your sources)?	
	Source	percent
	Source	percent
	Source	nercent

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

Although the wording of the questions in Part III is directed to purchasers of lawn and garden steel fence posts, if your firm purchases other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot (regardless of whether you also purchase lawn and garden steel fence posts), please answer the questions, making it clear as to whether your answers relate to lawn and garden steel fence posts, other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot, or to both. If your answers differ based on the type of post (lawn and garden steel fence posts vs. other steel fence posts of 1 pound or less per foot), please indicate how they differ.

III-26.	Do you require your suppliers to become certified or prequalified with respect to the quality, chemistry, strength, or other performance characteristic of the lawn and garden steel fence posts they sell to your firm?
	No YesApproximately what percent of your firm's total 2002 purchases of lawn and garden steel fence posts required some form of prequalification? percent.
III-27.	Briefly describe the factors that are considered when qualifying a new supplier (e.g., quality of product, reliability of supplier, product range offered, production/supply capacity, distribution network capabilities, etc.) and estimate the time it takes to qualify a new supplier.
III-28.	Since January 1, 2000, have any domestic or foreign producers ever failed in their attempts to qualify their lawn and garden steel fence posts with your firm or have any producers lost their approved status?
	No YesPlease identify these firms, the countries where they are located, and the reasons why they failed the qualification process.
III-29.	Does your firm purchase lawn and garden steel fence posts over the internet?
	No Yes-Please describe, noting the estimated percentage of your firm's total purchases of lawn and garden steel fence posts in 2002 accounted for by internet purchases.

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-30.	Please provide any comments that you have on the importance of the following factors in your firm's purchasing decisions: (1) breadth of supplier's product mix; (2) supplier's production/supply capacity; (3) breadth of supplier's national or regional distribution network.
III-31.	The following questions relate to the degree of similarity or the differences between (1) lawn and garden steel fence posts, (2) other steel posts of 1 pound or less per foot, and (3) posts over 1 pound per foot.
	Please describe any similarities and/or differences in the physical characteristics.
	Please describe any similarities and/or differences in the uses.
	Please describe the degree of interchangeability, if any, i.e., are they used in the same or similar applications?
	Please describe any similarities and/or differences in the channels of distribution.
	Please describe, to the best of your knowledge, any similarities and/or differences in customer and producer perceptions.
	Please explain whether they are made in common (i.e., the same or shared) manufacturing facilities, using common production processes, and production employees.
	Please describe any similarities and/or differences in the prices.

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED PRODUCT

IV-1.	Please indicate the countries of origin for lawn and garden steel fence posts for which your firm has actual marketing/pricing knowledge.				
	United States	China	Other (p	lease specify)	
IV-2.	Do the specifications application?	of lawn and gar	den steel fence	posts vary depending on the end use	
	No YesPlease list the specifications of the material for each end-use application. If the specifications vary based on the supplier, please list the product specifications for each supplier, noting the country of origin in your response.				
	-				
IV-3.	applications? Please a	enswer for all control in	ountry combinat	arden steel fence posts used in the same tions you are familiar with (as indicated in ing the United States and both subject and	
	vs		Yes	NoPlease explain below.	
	vs		Yes	NoPlease explain below.	
	vs		Yes	NoPlease explain below.	
	vs		Yes	NoPlease explain below.	

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED PRODUCT--Continued

- 4.	Do you or your customers ever specifically order lawn and garden steel fence posts from one country in particular over other possible sources of supply?
	YesPlease identify all relevant countries (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries) from which you or your customers prefer to order, and indicate why lawn and garden steel fence posts from these countries is preferred over product from other countries (please note the specific product in your response).
5.	Are certain grades/types/sizes of lawn and garden steel fence posts available from only a single source (domestic or foreign, including both subject and nonsubject countries)?
	No YesPlease identify the source and the grade/type/size.
	Based on your experience, is it true that the anchor plates on domestically-produced lawn and garden steel fence posts are crimped to the post whereas the anchor plates on lawn and garden steel fence posts imported from China are riveted to the post? Yes—Please indicate how important this factor is in your purchases of lawn and garden steel fence posts that are domestically produced or produced in China, respectively.
	Based on your experience, are the anchor plates on lawn and garden steel fence posts produced in nonsubject countries (1) crimped to the post or (2) riveted to the post?
	☐ Crimped to the post ☐ Riveted to the post ☐ Don't know/not applicable
	How important is this factor in your purchases of lawn and garden steel fence posts produced in nonsubject countries?

IV-8.	Please indicate whether prices of lawn and garden steel fence posts from different sources have generally been higher, lower, or about the same as those of product from other sources. Please answer for all country combinations you are familiar with (as indicated in your response to the first question in Part IV), including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries.					
		Higher	Same	Lower	priced than from	
		_ Higher	Same	Lower	priced than from	
		Higher	Same	Lower	priced than from	
IV-9.	product was av so (please spec foreign countr	vailable from an cify by country, ies). Possibilition	other source at a including the U	a lower price, inited States are transaction cl	e source although a comparable please explain your reasons for doing nd both subject and nonsubject haracteristics such as length of time to	
IV-10.	If you purchased imported lawn and garden steel fence posts during 2002, approximately how much higher would the price for the imported product have to have been (over the price you paid) before you would have purchased U.Sproduced lawn and garden steel fence posts instead (please specify by country, including imports from both subject and nonsubject countries)?					
	Country			percent his	gher	
	Country			percent his	gher	
	Country			percent his	gher	
	Comments:					
IV-11.	Since January 1, 2000, have the prices of U.Sproduced lawn and garden steel fence posts generally increased, decreased, or remained the same relative to prices of imported products (please specify by country, including imports from both subject and nonsubject countries)?					
	Increased	(specify countri	es)	
	Decreased	(specify countr	ies)	
	Remained	the same (speci	fy countries)	

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED PRODUCT--Continued

IV-12. For the factors listed below, please rate how lawn and garden steel fence posts produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with lawn and garden fence steel posts produced in each of the other countries you identified (including the

United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). Copy this page as necessary to cover all possible country combinations and please attach any comments you care to make concerning your responses, especially in comparisons where you rate product from one country superior or inferior to product from another.

	compared to _		
(specify country)	SUPERIOR	(specify country) COMPARABLE	INFERIOR
Availability			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered			
Distribution network			
Lowest price			
Minimum qty requirements			
Packaging			
Product consistency			
Product quality			
Product range of lawn and garden fence post products .			
Product range of other lawn and garden products			
Production capacity			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service			
Transportation network			
U.S. transportation costs			
Other (specify):			

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED PRODUCT--Continued

IV-13. For the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of its importance in your purchase decision for lawn and garden steel fence posts.

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Availability			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered			
Distribution network			
Lowest price			
Minimum qty requirements			
Packaging			
Product consistency			
Product quality			
Product range of lawn and garden fence post products.			
Product range of other lawn and garden products			
Production capacity			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service			
Transportation network			
U.S. transportation costs			
Other (specify):	П	П	П
PART V <u>PURCHASE PRICES</u>			

This section requests quarterly price and quantity data concerning your firm's commercial purchases from unrelated firms of the following U.S.-produced and imported products <u>from China</u> during January 2000-December 2002:

Product 1.--Light duty lawn and garden steel fence posts, 14 gauge thick, 1 3/4 inches wide by 4 feet tall

<u>Product 2.</u>.-Light duty lawn and garden steel fence posts, 14 gauge thick, 1 ¾ inches wide by 5 feet tall <u>Product 3.</u>--Heavy duty lawn and garden steel fence posts, 13 gauge thick, 3 inches wide by 5 feet tall <u>Product 4.</u>--Heavy duty lawn and garden steel fence posts, 13 gauge thick, 3 inches wide by 6 feet tall

COPY PAGES AS NECESSARY. Complete a separate page for each of the specified products purchased by your firm. Indicate in the space provided the product for which pricing is reported.

PURCHASES FROM U.S. PRODUCERS

Product 1 Product 2 Produ	ect 3 Product 4				
(<i>Quantity</i> in pounds, <i>value</i> in dollars)					
Period of shipment	Quantity	Delivered value			
2000:					
January-March					
April-June					
July-September					
October-December					
2001:					
January-March					
April-June					
July-September					
October-December					
2002:					
January-March					
April-June					
July-September					
October-December					
¹ If your product does not exactly meet the product spec product, provide a description of your product:	ifications but is compet	itive with the specified			

PART V.--<u>PURCHASE PRICES</u>--Continued

PURCHASES FROM U.S. IMPORTERS OF CHINESE PRODUCT

Product 1	Product 2	Product 3	Product 4

(<i>Quantity</i> in pound	s, <i>valu</i> e in dollars)	
Period of shipment	Quantity	Delivered value
2000:		
January-March		
April-June		
July-September		
October-December		
2001:	<u>.</u>	
January-March		
April-June		
July-September		
October-December		
2002:	<u>.</u>	
January-March		
April-June		
July-September		
October-December		
¹ If your product does not exactly meet the produ product, provide a description of your product:	ct specifications but is comp	etitive with the specified

PART VI.--SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION

Please provide the names and addresses of your firm's 10 largest suppliers of lawn and garden steel fence posts purchased during 2000-2002. Please also provide the name and telephone number of a contact person and the share of the quantity of your firm's total purchases of lawn and garden steel fence posts that each of these suppliers accounted for in 2002. Note: If there are other suppliers of lawn and garden steel fence posts that are qualified to supply your firm, but are not listed below, please attach a list of such additional suppliers to this questionnaire. Please provide the information requested in the following table for any such additional qualified suppliers.

No.	Supplier's name	Street address (<u>not</u> P.O. box), state, and zip code	Contact person	Area code and telephone number	Share of 2002 pur- chases (%)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					