

March 25, 2010

2010 MEMO

PLANT BREEDERS and CROP CERTIFICATE ASSIGNEES

This annual technical memo contains:

- recent and proposed changes in seed crop certification services from CSGA
- reminders of specific requirements for production of Breeder seed crops
- news that may interest those involved with Breeder and assigned seed crop production

For details on how pedigreed seed crops are inspected, see the CFIA Inspection Procedures under Specific Work Instructions at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/seedsem/inspe.shtml>.

The CSGA seed crop inspection requirements and application forms are available at:

<http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/index.asp?lang=e>. If you have questions, use the CSGA office contact information below to get answers.

- NEW in 2010

1. CHANGES effective in 2010 in CSGA REGULATIONS (Circular 6)

Notice of regulation changes effective in 2010 are posted on the CSGA website at:

http://www.seedgrowers.ca/pdfs/Circular%206_2010/Circ6%20Notice%20of%20Changes%202010_20100115.pdf.

Revised versions of Circular 6 have been sent in CD format to growers, Plant Breeders and crop certificate assignees and are also available online at: <http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/circular.asp>. Additional CD's or hard copy versions of these are available from the CSGA office. Except for fee changes related to Breeder plots (in # 2. below) and a land use change for Certified cereal crops planted on pulse crop stubble (in # 4. below), the regulation changes in 2010 simply clarify the requirements in Circular 6 for midge tolerant wheat refuge declarations, for Foundation soybean crops, forage crops and several minor crop kinds.

2. FEE Changes (Appendix A, Circular 6)

The following forms and fees will be introduced or revised in 2010:

- *Appeal Application* (CSGA Form 200, Section 1.9): \$100.00 fee; and
- Plot Inspections: Fees for plots are revised to include a \$110.00 fee per Breeder plot.
- Basic Fees: Initial Basic fees for all members are revised to include Breeders. The basic fee for CSGA is \$75.00 and for CFIA is \$100.00.

3. Int'l. Meeting on Molecular Testing and Variety DNA Profiling, Ottawa, May 10-13, 2010

Plant Breeders are invited to attend the meeting of the Biochemical and Molecular Techniques and DNA Profiling (BMT) Working Group, of the International Union for the Protection of Varieties of Plants (UPOV), at the Lord Elgin Hotel in Ottawa, May 10 – 13, 2010. An opening workshop the afternoon of May 10th will introduce new participants to UPOV and emerging issues with new testing technologies. The May 11th session will be a "Breeder's Day" involving presentations on the use of molecular techniques in examining essential derivation and in variety identification. The CSGA is among seed sector sponsors of this international technical meeting to support the variety verification testing of Canadian seed certification having access to the most up to date testing technology available. Program agendas and registration forms for this meeting are available from:

Ms. Gabrielle Becker,
CFIA PBR Office, 59 Camelot Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0Y9
Tel.: (613) 221- 7522
Fax: (613) 228-4552
E-mail: gabrielle.becker@inspection.gc.ca

4. Pulse Crops can now be a break crop for CERTIFIED Cereal Crops (Section 2.2.5)

Land use requirements for production of Certified status crops of barley, oats, rye, triticale and wheat are revised to now permit Certified status crop production, NOT Registered or Foundation, on land that in the previous year produced non-pedigreed crops of any of the pulse or bean crop kinds in Section 3 of CSGA regulations (*Circular 6*) regardless of the land use two years prior. These pulse and bean crop kinds include chickpeas, fababeans, field beans, lentils, lupins, peas and soybeans.

5. GM Flax Testing

In January, 2010, the Canadian flax industry announced a GM flax testing protocol that included a pedigreed seed testing program. CSGA sent a description of this program to all seed growers who had produced flax in the past 5 years, flax breeders, registered seed establishments and variety distributors. More information on GM flax testing is available from the Flax Council of Canada and their website at: <http://www.flaxcouncil.ca/english/index.jsp> .

- CONTINUING from 2009

1. UPDATING CROP CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Many crop certification forms are being updated with the ISO registration of operations in the CSGA office. Current versions of CSGA crop certification documents are available from the CSGA office and also online at: <http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/downloads.asp#crop> .

For example, the current version of the *Application for Breeder Seed Crop Certificate (Form 43)* is available at: http://www.seedgrowers.ca/pdfs/forms/Form43_2008.pdf .

2. OFFICIAL VERIFICATION of ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

This is an annual reminder that CSGA regulations require prescribed isolation distances to be verified at the time of inspection. For seed crops not in compliance at the time of inspection, two options are available. Both options require a re-inspection by CFIA. The two options are:

- i) The required isolation strips must be removed prior to the CFIA re-inspection, OR
- ii) Except for cross-pollinated crops (such as canola and most forage species), a pedigreed crop can be harvested leaving behind a portion of the crop equivalent to the required isolation. This isolation strip and the crop perimeter should be clearly identified and must be verified by a CFIA re-inspection.

Isolation strips that are removed or left behind must not be used as pedigreed seed. For re-inspections, contact your local CFIA crop inspection office which will also invoice you directly for re-inspections.

3. SUSPENSION & CANCELLATION of PLANT BREEDER RECOGNITION

The CSGA *Regulations and Procedures for Breeder Seed Crop Production* were revised in 2009, distributed to all recognized Plant Breeders and the official version is available online at: http://www.seedgrowers.ca/pdfs/Breeder%20Seed%20Crop%20Regulations_ENGLISH_2009.pdf.

As directed by the CSGA Plant Breeders' Committee, these regulations now include procedures, on pages 6 – 7, for suspension and cancellation of Plant Breeder recognition. These procedures are:

- based on the procedures in federal Seeds Regulations for graders and Registered Seed Establishments;
- limited to the CSGA professional recognition of Plant Breeders for Breeder seed crop certification; and
- linked directly to compliance with Breeder seed crop regulations and Quality Management System (QMS) requirements. Details on QMS requirements are outlined on pages 14-17 of the revised regulations at: http://www.seedgrowers.ca/pdfs/Breeder%20Seed%20Crop%20Regulations_ENGLISH_2009.pdf .

- PLANNED for 2011

1. MORE RECOGNITION of PLANT BREEDERS

Presently, only a certificate suitable for framing and an official acceptance letter are issued by CSGA for recognition of new Plant Breeders. In response to seed sector requests for easier access to Plant Breeder contact information, updates to the CSGA website will include the option for recognized Plant Breeders (as well as accredited Plot Producers and organic seed growers) to ask CSGA to post their contact information and crop kind experience on either the public or the members' area of the CSGA website.

2. VARIETY VERIFICATION TESTING

Reviewing appropriate test methods and communication of test results, for the CFIA variety verification testing which audits seed crop and varietal certification, has been discussed at recent meetings of the CSGA Plant Breeders' Committee, CFIA-CSGA Joint Meetings, the OECD Schemes for Varietal Certification of Seed in International Trade and at the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). At all these meetings, this subject has been put on future work lists. By 2011, the CFIA and CSGA plan to communicate more of these test results to plant breeders, assignees and seed growers.

- REMINDERS

1. SEPARATE Applications REQUIRED for DIFFERENT ADDRESS LOCATIONS

Most Breeder plots for CSGA certification are located at the address of the Breeder's employer. For plots at distinctly different locations, Breeders should submit separate Applications for Crop Inspection to CSGA, which contain landowner contact information and directions, for each different address location. This will ensure that CSGA can send crop inspection reports to the appropriate inspection office.

2. MAXIMUM Breeder PLOT SIZE: 2.5 acres (1 Ha)

To ensure adequate inspection intensity, maximum Breeder plot size for CSGA certification is 2.5 acres or 1 Ha. There is no limit on the number of plots applied for inspection.

3. BREEDER SEED TAG SIGNATURES

Breeders should print their name and / or CSGA grower number, after their signature on the bottom line of Breeder seed tags. This expedites CSGA verification of parent seed eligibility on crop inspection reports and prevents delays in issuing crop certificates due to CSGA having to send follow-up letters to growers, companies or seed certification agencies in other countries.

4. VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

For new unregistered varieties, which have not previously been officially inspected in Canada, variety descriptions should be submitted to CSGA either before or with Applications for Crop Inspection of the new variety. To be eligible for Breeder seed plot certification, variety descriptions must be submitted to CSGA and include distinguishing characteristics of the new variety and identify the Breeder seed maintainer.

- AVAILABLE from CSGA

1. FROM the CSGA Website at: www.seedgrowers.ca

- a) **2010 Application for Crop Inspection** with separate *Fee Calculation Worksheet*;
- b) **MEMBER LOGIN** at: <http://www.seedgrowers.ca/CSGAMembers/Login.aspx> provides password-secure access to your own real time crop inspection and CSGA account records;
- c) Official versions of all CSGA Regulations and revisions;
- d) Authorizations to Assign Crop Certificates (Form 179 and 179A);
- e) Applications for Breeder Seed Crop Certificates (Form 43);
- f) Land Use Verification Requests (Form 101);
- g) Variety Certification Eligibility Applications (Form 300) for entering into CSGA certification, new varieties of crop kinds that are exempt from official CFIA registration (for which seed will be officially labelled) or unregistered varieties that will be exported and officially labelled in another country.

2. REPORTS AVAILABLE from CSGA

In addition to pedigreed seed crop directories available from our website, CSGA provides:

- to crop certificate assignees, a list of all inspected crops and growers with certificates that have been assigned to them.....\$150 (min.); and
- to Plant Breeders or variety developers, or their designates, a list of all the growers and inspected crops of the varieties they developed or maintain..... \$150 (min.).

3. CSGA OFFICE

Phone extensions at (613) 236-0497 and e-mail addresses are also available at: www.seedgrowers.ca .

Operations Manager	Roy van Wyk	ext. 228	e-mail: vanwykr@seedgrowers.ca
Ops Coordinator	Gail Harris	227	harrisg@seedgrowers.ca
Ops Coordinator	René Daoust	226	daoustr@seedgrowers.ca
Member Services Coordinator	Caroline Lafontaine	225	lafontainecl@seedgrowers.ca
Ops Admin. Coordinator	Latona Nicholson	231	nicholsonl@seedgrowers.ca
Executive Director	Dale Adolphe	ext. 224	e-mail: adolphed@seedgrowers.ca
Executive Assistant	Gaye O'Bertos	221	obertosg@seedgrowers.ca
Program Manager	Randy Preaterr	223	preaterr@seedgrowers.ca
Finance Manager	Pam Coles	222	pcoles@seedgrowers.ca

CSGA plans to continue sending you this annual update on pedigreed seed crop inspection and welcomes comments. Contact CSGA or unsubscribe at:

Canadian Seed Growers' Association

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 8455
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3T1

Courier Address:
202-240 Catherine Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2G8

(613) 236-0497
Fax: (613) 563-7855
www.seedgrowers.ca