

CSGA

# Seed Scoop

## CSGA/CSTA Joint Annual Meeting

July 7 to 9, 2010

Delta Grand Okanagan Resort, Kelowna, BC



A very big “hello” to everyone in the seed production world! I am very happy that I have been able to meet many of you over the past few months at your Branch Annual Meetings. It has been indeed quite a pleasure and in the words of our past president, the “banquet trail” is over for this year. I have to tell you that those who did not attend missed out on excellent presentations and very good information. A big benefit from those annual meetings is networking with other seed growers in your region.

There are huge differences in Canadian agriculture across this country. Of course, some of the challenges are identical. One challenge we don't enjoy in Eastern Canada (thankfully) is the wheat midge. This year will mark the first sales of blended Certified wheat seed with one part being a midge tolerant variety, and the other part a susceptible variety providing refuge. Most of us do not realize the “bureaucracy” behind allowing the production and sale of a varietal blend but let me tell you, this was quite the undertaking. Congratulations to the staff of all organizations and companies involved in making this possible and assuring the required changes.

CSGA and the Branch Associations are always looking at ways to promote awareness and benefits of Certified seed to farmers and end-users in an effort to increase demand. But we also need your help. It's important to make farmers aware of the added confidence and certainty that Certified seed gives them. The CSGA website has factsheets and other tools available to better prepare you to explain the benefits of Certified seed to your customers. Visit the website: [http://www.seedgrowers.ca/about\\_us/sharingmessage.asp](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/about_us/sharingmessage.asp). Nobody knows your customers better than you. Be sure to remind them that with Certified seed, they're “Planting Success”!

Another first this year is the upcoming joint Annual Meetings of the CSGA and CSTA. I urge you to attend the meeting, and take advantage of opportunities to interact with other seed growers and our partners in the seed industry. The following article has all the details, so be sure to mark your calendar right now (or check out your CSGA wall calendar – it's already on there!). I look forward to meeting you this July.

Neil Shanks  
President

The 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association will take place at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort in beautiful Kelowna, B.C. from July 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The meeting is being held in conjunction with the Canadian Seed Trade Association's 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. This joint meeting promises to be an excellent celebration of decades of cooperation within the seed industry and a clear and strong step towards strengthened partnerships. We are confident that we will all benefit from sharing both common and diverse views and from working together to further progress the entire seed industry. In keeping with that objective, the theme for the joint meeting is “Progressing Together”.

Because of the joint nature of this meeting, there are a few changes to the program as compared to recent years. All the social events will be held jointly. The Family BBQ evening will be held on Wednesday evening. The CSGA Awards banquet will take place as a luncheon on Thursday. Delegates from both Associations will be free Thursday evening to socialize, network and enjoy Kelowna on their own and with friends.

The Growers' Program officially kicks off on Thursday morning with a joint CSGA and CSTA plenary session of the two Annual Meetings featuring guest speakers, followed by CSGA's annual business meeting and the awards luncheon. On Friday, CSGA's annual business meeting session will continue and will be followed by an open forum for seed growers to discuss issues and resolutions. Remember that this is your opportunity to have your say in your Association. After lunch, we invite seed growers

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to participate in a professional development session on liability and how to avoid litigation and associated costs. More information will soon be posted on the CSGA website as details are finalized.

The social program, partners' program and children's program are nearly finalized. On Wednesday, there is the annual CSTA Golf Tournament and CSGA members are welcome to register with CSTA for that event. Rated as one of the best in the country, Gallagher's Canyon Golf & Country Club is a spectacular par 72, 18-hole championship course full of challenging fairways, well-protected greens and awe-inspiring vistas. Throughout the course, you'll marvel at the scenery around you as you play through tall groves of ponderosa pine and along the very edge of the picturesque canyon. Just minutes from downtown Kelowna and Lake Okanagan, the warm arid climate and brilliant sunny days common to this part of the province consistently serve up ideal conditions for exceptional golf.



Also on Wednesday is the CSTA Fun Run/Walk. CSGA members are again welcomed to register with CSTA for that event. Bring your family along for this enjoyable run or stroll around the beautiful walkways as you set out from the Grand Okanagan, followed by refreshments back at the hotel.

Wednesday evening is the Family BBQ which will be held jointly with CSTA delegates and their families at the Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna. Enjoy a fun family evening including a delicious BBQ and entertainment for the kids. Children can visit the upstairs theatre to view a family-friendly movie, or the arts and crafts room for fun activities. The Rotary Centre is a very short, two-minute walk from the hotel.



The formal children's program kicks off Thursday morning while delegates and their partners are in meetings or preparing for the Thursday Awards luncheon. Children, ages 12-16, are invited on a Survivor Challenge. Participants will be divided into teams, with all activities taking place in and around the vicinity of the hotel, followed by a picnic lunch. Children ages 6-11 will be enjoying interactive games in and around the hotel, followed by lunch. For children ages 2-5 there is a daycare program in the hotel.

The Friday children's program is a trip to the H<sub>2</sub>O Centre Leisure Indoor Water Park. It is a place for all ages, including parents who wish to accompany their children. Facilities include a wave pool, a river run, 3 water slides, an ocean wave surf simulator, children's water play area and a steam room. Lunch will be provided at the concession stand. Again, a daycare program is available for children ages 2-5 in the hotel.



The partners program is running only on Friday because of the Awards luncheon on Thursday. Partners are invited to a winery tour and an outdoor lunch. The group will divide into two. The first group will tour the Westside wineries, while the second group tours the south Kelowna wineries, followed by a delicious lunch outdoors at the St. Hubertus and Rollingdale Wineries.

On Friday night, delegates and their partners are invited to a joint closing banquet with CSTA, enjoying entertainment from The All-Star Rock 'N Roll Revue. Meanwhile, children ages 6-16 will enjoy a Pizza Party in the hotel, including Karaoke, games and movies.



Registration forms, hotel information and the Annual Meeting program will soon be posted to the CSGA website [www.seedgrowers.ca](http://www.seedgrowers.ca) and featured in the May issue of our magazine Seed to Succeed. Begin to make your plans now for Kelowna in July.

Anyone wishing to participate in the Wednesday morning CSTA activities is asked to register with CSTA directly by going to their website at [www.cdnseed.org](http://www.cdnseed.org).

We hope to see you there!

(Photo Courtesy of: Pamela Gilani, Don Wixl TOTA and Tourism Kelowna, [www.tourismkelowna.com](http://www.tourismkelowna.com))

# The GM Flax Issue

In mid January 2010, CSGA sent a notice out to all seed growers who produced pedigreed flax seed in any one or more of the past five years. This notice was also sent to all Registered Seed Establishments, flax variety developers and flax seed distributors. Since then, we have been asked many questions about flax, the need for Certified seed and the testing protocol.

The notice that was sent out was intended to inform seed industry stakeholders of the stewardship requirements being requested by the flax industry. It was also intended to draw everyone's focus to the Flax Council of Canada website ([www.flaxcouncil.ca](http://www.flaxcouncil.ca)). Because elements of the stewardship program, the list of recognized labs for testing and the interpretation of tests results have been subject to change and will likely continue to be subject to change, it is important the Flax Council website be the central focal point for the latest news and stewardship requirements.

While the flax industry's stewardship program includes a heavy testing requirement and additional cost to seed growers, the industry is relying on the pedigreed seed system to be the starting point in clearing GM flax from the system. Unfortunately, this does not mean that all Certified seed will be free of GM, but the traceability of Certified seed allows the industry to better track contamination and speed the process for the system to be flushed clean. The endorsement by the major grain handlers is a tribute to the Canadian seed certification system and to you as seed growers.

If you have questions over the next few weeks or months, visit the Flax Council of Canada website. It is intended to be the home of the most up-to-date information on the GM flax situation, including the latest procedures for testing GM flax presence and the list of approved labs to perform the GM flax testing.

Test results from labs that have completed proficiency testing approved by the Canadian Grain Commission will be acceptable to the flax industry to participate in the Pedigreed Testing Program. At the time of writing this article, it is our understanding that only one lab, Quantum Bio-Sciences Inc. of Saskatoon is being recognized for the GM testing of commercial flax destined for delivery into the grain handling system. The up-to-date lab list is at: [www.flaxcouncil.ca](http://www.flaxcouncil.ca).



Currently, there appears to be 3 possible outcomes from having the seed tested:

- 1) Positive - all 4 sub-samples test positive for GM flax
- 2) Trace - at least 1 of the 4 sub-samples tests positive for GM flax
- 3) Negative - all 4 sub-samples test negative for GM flax

It is important that you understand the results of your GM flax test for the European market as the majority of grain handlers will be targeting only seed lots that test negative (i.e. not positive or trace). If you are not sure about your results ask the lab for an interpretation. The Canadian flax industry is working diligently with European officials to try to establish a realistic tolerance for GM flax. If any progress is made in that regard, test result interpretations and impacts could change. However, until Europe moves off their present zero tolerance for GM flax presence, the frustrations as a stakeholder in the flax industry will persist.

Both patience and co-operation are true virtues as the flax industry works through this tough issue.

(Photo Courtesy: SaskFlax, Flax Council of Canada, FC2015 Inc.)

## International Meeting on Molecular Testing and Variety DNA Profiling

From May 11 – 13, 2010, Canada will host the 12<sup>th</sup> session 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.

An opening workshop will be held the afternoon of May 10<sup>th</sup> to familiarize new participants with the UPOV organization and emerging issues with these new testing technologies.

The session on May 11<sup>th</sup> will be a "Breeder's Day" involving presentations of particular interest to breeders such as the use of molecular techniques in examining essential derivation and the use of molecular techniques 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.

Agendas and registration forms for this May 10 – 13, 2010 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](mailto:gabrielle.becker@inspection.gc.ca)

# Technical Updates

## Changes in Circular 6 Effective in 2010

The official summary *Notice of Changes in Circular 6*, along with revised replacement pages and a complete, revised 2010 version of the CSGA *Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6)* are **enclosed in CD format**. As in the past, hard copy versions of this information are also available upon request from the CSGA office and this *Notice of Changes*, revised replacement pages and a complete, revised edition of the official version of Circular 6 are also available on the CSGA website at: [www.seedgrowers.ca](http://www.seedgrowers.ca).

Highlights of these changes include:

### Certified Cereal Crop Land Requirements (Section 2.2.5)

Land requirements for production of CERTIFIED crops of Barley, Oat, Rye, Triticale and Wheat, will be revised to permit CERTIFIED, not Foundation nor Registered, crop production on land that in the previous year produced non-pedigreed crops of any of the pulse and bean crop kinds in Section 3 of *Circular 6* (such as chickpeas, field beans, lentils, peas and soybeans) regardless of the land use two years prior. This change does not apply to other classes of pedigreed cereal crops such as Registered or Foundation.

This change in 2010 means that in the year after growing a commercial (non-pedigreed) pulse or bean crop, Circular 6 now permits production of a CERTIFIED cereal crop of a different variety (of the same cereal crop kind) than was grown on that land two years ago. Before 2010, Circular 6 only permitted this variety change rotation after cultivated summerfallow, canola, corn, potatoes or other vegetable row crops in the previous year.

This short rotation between different varieties (of the same crop kind) is not recommended under most production conditions. There is normally a higher risk that the seed crop may contain too many volunteers of the different variety from two years ago. But with less summerfallow acreage available in western Canada, better informed seed growers, the experience of western U.S. seed growers and improved controls for volunteers, CSGA was persuaded that this change was required to provide growers of CERTIFIED cereal crops with more crop rotation options.

The example below in Wheat shows the actual text changes in CSGA Regulations (Circular 6) Table 2.2.5 for all CERTIFIED cereal crops.

Inspected Crop	Must NOT be grown on land which:
Wheat (Spring and Winter) Certified	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the previous year produced:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a non-pedigreed crop of Barley, Buckwheat, Oat, Rye, Triticale or Wheat;</li> <li>- a crop of a different* variety of Wheat;</li> <li>- a crop of Durum.</li> </ul> </li> <li>In the previous year produced a non-pedigreed crop of <del>Bean, Canaryseed, Fababean, Flax, Lentil, Lupin, Pea,</del> Safflower, <del>Soybean</del> or Sunflower, and which followed a non-pedigreed crop of Wheat or a different* variety of Wheat 2 years prior.</li> </ul>

### This example shows land use NOW eligible for CERTIFIED production that was not eligible in 2009:

2010: producing CERTIFIED Barley, Oat, Rye, Triticale or Wheat seed crop of a DIFFERENT VARIETY than was produced two (2) years ago

2009: produced a non-pedigreed crop of Field Beans, Chickpeas, Fababeans, Lentils, Lupins, Peas or Soybeans

2008: produced a DIFFERENT VARIETY of the same crop kind (Barley, Oat, Rye, Triticale or Wheat) being produced in 2010

### Midge Tolerant Wheat Crop Certification Requires New Refuge Declaration (CSGA Form 182)

A new *Refuge Declaration* form was sent to all growers of midge tolerant wheat varietal blend crops in 2009. As required by the developers' (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and University of Saskatchewan Crop Development Centre) additional certification requirements for these varieties, this declaration is completed by growers for each inspected midge tolerant wheat crop (sequence number) and submitted to CSGA after they receive test results from the SRC GenServe Lab in Saskatoon. Only the SRC lab is presently licensed to use the AAFC refuge testing technology and has had its test method validated and recognized by the CSGA. The new *Refuge Declaration* (CSGA Form 182) will accommodate introduction next year of more reliable testing that verifies the percentage refuge in these blends by testing for the midge tolerance (Sm1 gene) marker instead of variety-specific molecular markers.

### Pulse and Soybean Crops (Section 3.2.2 a)

Section 3.2.2a is revised to read: "*Land requirements prevent production of a higher pedigreed status crop (of the same variety) than the pedigreed status of the crop produced on that land the previous year.*" This clarifies that the pedigreed status of subsequent pulse and soybean crop kinds in Section 3, like crop kinds in Section 2, is limited by the pedigreed status of crop(s) produced on that land in the previous year.

For example, if a grower plants Foundation seed on land that produced Certified seed of the same variety the previous year, the land would only be eligible to produce a Certified crop, NOT a Registered crop.

### Timing of Fababean Crop Inspections (Section 3.3.5)

Section 3.3.5 is revised to require Fababean seed crop inspections either at flowering or at maturity depending on the type to ensure

that new types of Fababean varieties are inspected when varietal impurities can be detected.

### Select Soybean Crops (Section 12.4.3)

Soybean Select plot land requirements in Section 12.4.3 are also revised to prevent the production of Select seed on land which produced a lower pedigreed class the year prior. This means that the only way a Select soybean plot can be produced on land that produced soybeans the previous year, is if the previous seed crop on that land was a Select plot of the same variety.

The example below shows the new land requirements in Circular 6, Table 12.4.3 for Select Soybean plots.

Inspected Crop	Must NOT be grown on land which:
<b>Soybean SELECT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the previous year produced:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a non-pedigreed Soybean crop;</li> <li>- a crop of a different variety of soybean;</li> <li>- a Foundation, Registered or Certified crop of Soybean.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Foundation Soybean Production (Section 3.1.4)

The following new Section 3.1.4 is added to Circular 6 to permit Foundation soybean production by other than plot growers accredited by CSGA, to support continued parent seed production in Canada.

3.1.4 A Foundation Soybean crop may be produced by a grower not accredited by the CSGA as a Plot Grower subject to the following requirements:

- a) Parent seed planted to produce the Foundation Soybean seed crop must be Breeder or Select status;
- b) In three of the past five years, the grower must have produced pedigreed Soybean seed crops;
- c) The Foundation Soybean seed crop must be produced under a contract to a Registered Seed Establishment System subject to audit by the Canadian Seed Institute; and
- d) Seed lot(s) from the Foundation Soybean seed crop will be tested, by the grower or the RSE, for variety verification and test results will be available for CSGA audit.

### Fee Changes (Appendix A)

The following forms and fees are introduced or revised in 2010:

- Appeal Application, Form 200 (Circular 6 Section 1.9): new \$100.00 fee;
- Applications for Demotion of Breeder Seed, Form 45 (Circular 6 Section 1.11): new \$80.00 fee;
- Plot Inspections: Fees for plots are revised to include a \$110.00 fee per plot producing a Breeder status crop; and Basic Fees: Initial basic fees for all grower members are revised to include Breeders. The basic fee for CSGA is \$75.00 and for CFIA is \$100.00.

As in the past, hard copy versions of this information are available from the CSGA office and this *Notice of Changes*, revised replacement pages and a complete, revised edition of the official version of Circular 6 are also available on the CSGA website at: [www.seedgrowers.ca](http://www.seedgrowers.ca).

## Assigning Crop Certificates

Each year, more than half (50%) of pedigreed seed crops in Canada are assigned by seed growers to another seed grower or contractor. A great deal is at stake in assigning CSGA crop certificates because they are the proof of the pedigreed value of the crop. So make sure you have your assignment details in order.

Crop certificates may not be assigned to the party expecting the certificate if assignments are not completed on time or if information is missing. CSGA is not responsible for incorrect or missing information on assignments, so both seed growers and assignees should ensure that assignments are handled correctly.

When a crop is assigned, both the grower's name and the assignee's name appear on the crop certificate, however, the crop certificate becomes the property of, and is mailed to, the assignee. Details such as field number, field location (legal land description), acres and date planted are key pieces of information used to describe a seed crop being assigned.

For annual crops, an assignment must be made each year. The simplest and most reliable way to assign an annual crop is to complete the annual assignment information on the *Application for Crop Inspection* form when you fill out that application. To assign a crop after an application for crop inspection has already been completed, use the *Annual Authorization to Assign Crop Certificates* (CSGA Form 179A).

For biennial and perennial crops, assignments can be made for multiple years using the *Authorization to Assign a Crop Certificate* (CSGA Form 179). This form requires signatures from both parties involved and is binding for the term of the assignment. This assignment can be revoked if CSGA receives a request in writing from both parties at which time a new Form 179 must be completed if the field is to be re-assigned.

For more information regarding crop certificate assignments, please contact the CSGA office. Both assignment forms (Form 179 and Form 179A) are available for download from the CSGA website at: <http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/applicationinspection.asp>.

## License Agreement to Print Official Seed Tags

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has launched the official seed tags licensing agreement. In the past, the CFIA has printed tags on card stock material and issued them at cost to Registered Seed Establishments (RSEs). This arrangement of issuing tags to RSEs is still in place. However, RSEs that have been printing tags in the past, or printing facsimiles of the tag directly on the bag (on their premises or by a third party), will need to apply for this license agreement by **September 30, 2010**.

For more information, please contact Arvind Vasudevan [arvind.vasudevan@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:arvind.vasudevan@inspection.gc.ca), or refer to the Q&A Section of the CFIA website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/seesem/tageti/tagetie.shtml>.

## Passages

**Lloyd Bertram** and **Clara Bertram** of Swan River, Manitoba passed away in 2009. Lloyd had received an Outstanding Service award from the CSGA, had 28 years of service and was a former President of the Manitoba Seed Growers' Branch.

**Bill Stephens** of Chatham, Ontario passed away in 2009.

## Annual Report

CSGA's 2008/2009 annual report is available on CSGA's website: [www.seedgrowers.ca/about\\_us/annualreports.asp](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/about_us/annualreports.asp).

## Email Addresses

Your 2010 Application for Crop Inspection and Membership will be mailed to you in the weeks to come. We strongly urge you to update or enter your email address. A valid email address allows CSGA to communicate quickly with you regarding issues with your crop inspection. In addition, a copy of all notification letters requesting corrective action on your field is sent directly to your email address and allows you to take corrective action in your field quickly, and most importantly, before harvest.

If your personal information changes at other times of the year, please contact the office or visit the member's area of our website to update your personal information.

We understand the need to protect your email address from internet threats and we want you to be assured that CSGA takes every necessary precaution to protect your personal information. CSGA's servers are protected with top of the line security software. We do not share private information with parties other than with the CFIA, CSI and CSGA Branches for the seed certification and member services aspects of our business. Our privacy policy can be viewed at: [http://www.seedgrowers.ca/about\\_us/policy/privacy.asp](http://www.seedgrowers.ca/about_us/policy/privacy.asp).

## CSGA By-law Revision

The CSGA By-laws Committee reviewed Article 7:03 c). This is the By-law Article that provides authority for the CSGA Board to invite the Provincial Ministers responsible for agriculture to appoint one Director from each province of Canada to the CSGA Board.

Recently, one Province indicated their appointee to the CSGA Board is to be a non-voting advisor. This Provincial Ministry has taken a similar stance to like appointments to other organizations. Therefore CSGA is not being singled out as a special case.

The By-law change that will be considered at the Annual Meeting of Members July 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Kelowna, B.C. is:

To change the first sentence of Article 7:03 c) to read:  
*"By invitation from the Association to the Provincial Minister responsible for agriculture, one Director or Advisor may be appointed from each Province of Canada."*

Article 7:03 c) currently reads:

*"By invitation from the Association to the Provincial Minister responsible for agriculture, one Director may be appointed from each Province of Canada. Such appointees need not be producers of Pedigreed seed."*

## Survey

The CSGA is conducting a short survey to improve its member services. Here is your chance to tell us how we did in 2009!

Enter your email address at the end of the survey for a chance to win a free CSGA membership, a value of \$75.00, off your 2010 crop inspection and membership application fees.

To participate in this survey, copy the following URL in your browser <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/W6R3QWL> or visit the CSGA website for a link to the survey.

**Your opinion counts!**

*Seed Scoop* is published twice a year by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association in the interest of pedigreed seed production in Canada. Material may be reprinted, however, credit to *Seed Scoop* is appreciated.

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Publications Agreement Number: 40628086  
Volume 59, No. 1, ISSN 0049 0040