

April 28, 2008

2008 MEMO

PLANT BREEDERS and CROP CERTIFICATE ASSIGNEES

This 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 on developments that may interest those involved with Breeder seed production

For specific details on how pedigreed seed crops are inspected, see the CFIA Specific Work Instructions at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/seeem/inspe.shtml>. If you have questions, please contact the CSGA.

- NEW in 2008

1. CHANGES Effective in 2008 in CSGA REGULATIONS (Circular 6)

Notice of all regulation changes were posted January 31, 2008, on the CSGA website at: <http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/circular.asp#1>. Replacement pages for the revised sections of Circular 6 were sent this year in a CD format to growers, Plant Breeders and crop certificate assignees. Additional CD's or hard copy versions of these changes are available from the CSGA office or website.

2. ISO REGISTRATION of CSGA CROP CERTIFICATION OPERATIONS

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

- CONTINUING from 2007

1. EXPANSION of E-PILOT for CROP CERTIFICATION

An expanded E-pilot project in 2008 will continue to assess costs and benefits of using more computerized tools for seed crop inspection applications and reports. New in 2008 will be improvements to online applications for crop inspection.

2. OFFICIAL VERIFICATION of ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

CSGA regulations require that isolation requirements for pedigreed seed crops be met *at the time of inspection*. For seed crops not in compliance at the time of inspection, two options exist.

Both options require a re-inspection by the CFIA. The two options are:

- i) The required isolation strips must be removed prior to the 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. To request re-inspections, contact your local CFIA office. Fees for re-inspections are billed by and payable to the CFIA.

3. THIRD-PARTY Auditors Required for Breeder Seed Crop Quality Management Systems (QMS)

The audits required to certify Breeder seed crops must now be conducted by qualified, third-party auditors. The current version of the *Application for Breeder Seed Crop Certificate (Form 43)* is available at:

<http://www.seedgrowers.ca/cropcertification/breederseed.asp?lang=e>. For these CSGA QMS audits:

- Third-party auditors means: "a person who is independent of those...who provide as well as those who use the (audited) product or service".
- Qualified auditors include QMS assessors from the Canadian Seed Institute (CSI), who have been trained to conduct CSGA Breeder seed crop QMS audits, and experienced third-party auditors who have completed ISO Lead Auditor training recognized by RABSQA International or the International Register of Certificated Auditors (IRCA).

- PLANNED for 2009

1. GIANT FOXTAIL – To Be MOVED from PROHIBITED to PRIMARY Noxious Weed List

When CFIA completes their proposed revision of the federal Weed Seeds Order, to move Giant Foxtail from the Prohibited to the Primary noxious weed list, then **CSGA will no longer have to DECLINE pedigreed status of seed crops containing Giant Foxtail** in excess of 5 to 20 plants/100 square metres (i.e. the “Few” incidence level on crop inspection reports) unless, like any other weed, the reported level of Giant Foxtail exceeds 100 plants/100 square metres (i.e. the “Very Weedy” level on crop reports).

2. FREQUENCY and SCOPE of AUDITS Required for CSGA Breeder Seed Crop QMS

CSGA's Plant Breeders' Committee has recommended that:

a) FREQUENCY of audits be based on a compliance-based protocol with switching rules from NORMAL to REDUCED or TIGHTENED frequency. All Breeder seed crop QMS will start at a NORMAL frequency requirement for an annual audit. Beginning in 2009, after the third (3rd) successive audit without a Major non-conformance, audit frequency would switch to a REDUCED requirement of every second (2nd) year. A complete outline of switching rules and non-conformance ratings would be available from the CSGA website.

b) SCOPE of these audits will include complete audit of all QMS elements recommended in the CSGA's *ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST for Breeder Seed Production Quality Management System (QMS)*, available at: http://www.seedgrowers.ca/pdfs/Breeder%20QMS_CropCert-Assessment-CHECKLIST_English_20070529.pdf. Since Breeder seed crops involve many different types of production systems, Plant Breeders and auditors will continue to be responsible for identifying required QMS elements.

2. CONVERSION of Breeder Seed Crop Regulations to ISO Document Format

CSGA's Plant Breeders' Committee has recommended that the *Breeder Seed Crop Regulations* be converted to ISO document format to ensure consistency with CSGA's *Canadian Regulations for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production (Circular 6)*. This text review will include any updating required to include sector and technology changes since the 2003 version was published. The revised *Breeder Seed Crop Regulations* will also include the text: “that recognized Plant Breeders are expected to maintain their professional competence”.

3. SUSPENSION and CANCELLATION PROCEDURES for Recognized Plant Breeders

CSGA's Plant Breeders' Committee has recommended *Suspension and Cancellation Procedures for Recognized Plant Breeders* be drafted that will be:

- limited to the scope of CSGA's professional recognition of Plant Breeders for Breeder seed certification;
- based on the authorization principles used in federal Seeds Regulations; and
- linked directly to compliance with the Breeder seed crop certification Quality Management System (QMS), with clear definitions of non-conformance categories (Minor and Major).

4. FURTHER EXPANSION of ELECTRONIC CROP INSPECTION PILOT

Based on priorities identified in 2008, CSGA plans to continue expanding the E-pilot project to use more computerized tools for seed crop inspection applications and reports. Expansions in 2009 are expected to include assessments of potential partnering and networking possibilities with other national regulatory and research programs.

- REMINDERS

1. SEPARATE Applications for Crop Inspection REQUIRED for DIFFERENT ADDRESS LOCATIONS

Most Breeders produce inspected plots at the address of their employer. For plots produced at other locations, Breeders should submit separate Applications for Crop Inspection for each different address location. This will ensure that inspection reports are sent to the appropriate inspection office. Plant Breeders are asked to submit separate Applications for Crop Inspection, that contain landowner contact information and directions, for each different location.

2. VARIETY NAMES Used on Applications for Crop Inspection

Variety names used on *Applications for Crop Inspection* must match the name, or previous experimental name, used on the official Variety Description. Do not include additional numbers or names used within company quality control systems. In the case of experimental lines, the use of an “EXP” prefix or suffix is recommended.

3. 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 (1 Ha). There is no limit on the number of plots applied for inspection.

4. BREEDER SEED TAG SIGNATURES

Breeders should print their name, after their signature, on Breeder seed tags. This expedites CSGA's verification of parent seed eligibility on crop inspection reports and prevents CSGA from having to send follow-up letters before issuing crop certificates.

5. 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 the *Applications for Crop Inspection*. To be eligible for certification, Variety Descriptions must include the distinguishing characteristics of the new variety and identify the variety maintainer.

- AVAILABLE from CSGA

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

- a) **2008 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 crop inspection and 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 exempt from official registration or unregistered varieties that will be exported and officially labeled;
- h) Pedigreed seed promotional items and pedigreed seed crop directories.

2. **REPORTS AVAILABLE from CSGA**

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

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

3. **CSGA OFFICE STAFF**

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

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

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