
SECTION 1

REGULATIONS FOR ALL PEDIGREED SEED CROPS

1.1 A condition which will bring pedigreed seed into disrepute may be cause for declining pedigreed status.

1.2 **MEMBERSHIP**

1.2.1 Any person, partnership or organization producing or undertaking to produce pedigreed seed must apply for membership in the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA), in accordance with the By-Laws.

1.2.2 All *Applications for Seed Crop Certification and CSGA Membership Application/ Renewal* must be made to the CSGA each year in which a crop is grown and presented for pedigreed status certification.

1.2.3 An applicant must be of legal age. In the case of a partnership, at least one member of the partnership must be of legal age.

1.2.4 In provinces or regions where there is a seed growers' organization approved by the Board of Directors of the CSGA, an applicant for membership in the CSGA is required to become a member of the Branch or Association in the province or region in which the crop is grown as a condition of being admitted to membership in the CSGA.

1.3 **APPLICATION FOR SEED CROP CERTIFICATION AND CSGA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

1.3.1 Growers must apply for crop certification on the application form supplied by the CSGA. The *Application for Seed Crop Certification and the CSGA Membership Application/Renewal* is available from the CSGA or from CSGA's website at www.seedgrowers.ca.

1.3.2 Crops for which applications for seed crop certification are received by the CSGA after the CSGA's deadline date may be inspected but only when inspection resources are available.

1.3.3 All inspections depend on an authorized inspector being able to safely provide the requested service at the proper time. Acceptance of application and fees by CSGA does not guarantee field inspection.

1.3.4 In order to ensure field inspection, the *Application for Seed Crop Certification and the CSGA Membership Application/Renewal*, accompanied with the necessary fees, must be received by the CSGA by deadlines dates published by the CSGA.

1.4 **EVIDENCE OF PEDIGREE**

1.4.1 Growers must present satisfactory evidence of the pedigree of the parent seed of crops offered for pedigreed status. When seed is purchased, all pedigreed seed labels or documentation must be retained and made available to the authorized seed crop inspector and to the CSGA upon request.

1.5 DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY, STATUS AND CLASS

- 1.5.1 The CSGA reserves the right to determine the eligibility of any crop for pedigree and the status of the seed crop produced. A crop planted with Certified seed is not eligible to produce a pedigreed crop unless otherwise specified by the CSGA (e.g., for export only, Certified second generation under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Seed Certification Schemes).

1.6 CROP UNIT AND ISOLATION

- 1.6.1 Isolation requirements are stated in the specific regulations for crop kinds and are the minimum isolation distances required.
- a) Boundaries must be clearly defined and adjacent crops must not overlap. To maintain inspection integrity, fields must have separate applications, and seed crop inspection reports, if they are managed separately or are separated by large physical barriers or are clearly not contiguous or adjacent
 - b) Isolation strips are not considered part of the crop area.
 - c) A part of the crop may be refused pedigreed status if it does not meet the standards. The remainder of the field may be granted pedigreed status if it has the proper isolation from the unacceptable portion and meets all other standards.
 - d) The area, density and location of contaminants within isolation strips may determine eligibility for pedigreed status.
- 1.6.2 A crop for pedigreed status may be grown with a companion crop provided permission is obtained from the CSGA and the seed used to plant the companion crop is of a purity acceptable to the CSGA. The companion crop must not interfere with the seed crop inspection.
- 1.6.3 The crop should be planted in such a manner as to facilitate inspection and effective removal of plants of off-types, other varieties, other crop kinds and weeds.

1.7 CROP INSPECTION

- 1.7.1 The number of inspections required is determined by the crop kind.
- 1.7.2 The crop must be inspected at a stage of growth when varietal purity is best determined. A crop that is cut, swathed or harvested prior to crop inspection is not eligible for pedigree.
- 1.7.3 It is the grower's responsibility to ensure that crops are inspected prior to swathing or harvesting.
- 1.7.4 It is the responsibility of the grower at the time of application to correctly identify the location of the crops to be inspected.
- 1.7.5 The inspector will provide the grower with a *Seed Crop Inspection Report* (refer to Appendix A.2).
- 1.7.6 If not satisfied with the *Seed Crop Inspection Report* or if corrective action verification is required, the grower has the right to request a re-inspection at the grower's expense.

- 1.7.7 If the classification or identification of off-type plants is challenged, the grower may request a reinspection, by an authorized seed crop inspector. Any charges incurred for such reinspections will be the responsibility of the grower.
- 1.7.8 The CSGA is under no obligation to authorize reinspections requested because of a grower's failure to comply with regulations.
- 1.7.9 A commercial crop may be inspected to assess the eligibility of the land for pedigreed seed production the following year. This is called "land use" inspection. Fees for this service are paid directly to the CFIA or authorized crop inspection service. (Refer to Section 1.17.)

1.8 CROP CERTIFICATES

- 1.8.1 A *Crop Certificate* (refer to Appendix A.5) will be issued in the name of the seed grower responsible for the management and production of the seed crop as indicated on the *Application for Seed Crop Certification and the CSGA Membership Application/Renewal*, except as set out below (1.8.2 and 1.8.5).
- 1.8.2 Crop certificates for hybrid crops may be issued to the person or company responsible for the variety.
- 1.8.3 The record of seed crop production is credited to the CSGA production record of the grower of the crop.
- 1.8.4 Crops for which a crop certificate has not been issued by April 30 of the year following crop inspection will be considered as ineligible for pedigree unless approved by the CSGA.
- 1.8.5 The grower may assign a crop certificate to another party on the *Application for Seed Crop Certification*. The names of both the grower and the assignee will appear on the crop certificate provided that the assignment is received by the CSGA before the crop certificate is issued. Refer to Section 1.19.
- 1.8.6 The CSGA reserves the right to issue a crop certificate to the grower if an assignment has not been received prior to certificate issuance.
- 1.8.7 The CSGA reserves the right to delay issuing a crop certificate until the applicant's account has been paid in full.

1.9 APPEALS

- 1.9.1 A grower may request an appeal of the CSGA decision on an inspected crop. The appeal request must include a completed *Appeal Application* (Form 200), factual, verifiable information and, for most crop kinds, be submitted to CSGA by October 15 of the year of crop inspection.
- 1.9.2 Although an assignee may support the appeal, the *Appeal Application* must be submitted under the signature of the grower of the crop.

- 1.9.3 The appeal may be reviewed by the Appeals Committee of the CSGA Board of Directors.
- 1.9.4 If corrective action is taken by the grower to correct a problem with the crop, the grower should immediately request a reinspection by an authorized seed crop inspector.

1.10 FEES

- 1.10.1 Applicable fees for pedigreed crops are as published by and payable to the CSGA.
- 1.10.2 The CSGA does not collect fees incurred for reinspection and inspection for "land use". These fees are paid directly to the authorized crop inspection agency, such as the CFIA.
- 1.10.3 Where applicable, the annual membership fee of the provincial affiliated organization (Branch or Association) of the CSGA must be paid as a condition of membership in the CSGA.

1.11 BREEDER SEED PRODUCTION

- 1.11.1 It is the responsibility of the Breeder to make application to the CSGA for Breeder seed crop inspection. All production of Breeder seed crops for CSGA certification are subject to CSGA crop inspection requirements for Breeder seed crops. The standards for Breeder seed crop production are published in the *Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Production of Breeder Seed Crops*, which is available from the CSGA and on the CSGA website at www.seedgrowers.ca.
- 1.11.2 Breeder seed can only be demoted and sold as Foundation or Registered seed provided the seedlot is subject to official varietal purity verification testing and a crop certificate of the demoted class has been issued by the CSGA.
- 1.11.3 Breeder seed must be transferred in closed containers, identified by tags or labels signed by the Breeder. The seed should have a minimum mechanical purity at least equal to that required for Canada Foundation seed verified by a seed analysis certificate which should accompany the seed.

1.12 TRANSFER AND SALE OF SEED FROM PEDIGREED SEED CROPS

- 1.12.1 A grower does not need to have parent seed graded and labelled if the crop applied for inspection is grown by the same grower who produced the parent seed. Otherwise, documented pedigreed seed of an eligible class must be obtained to produce a crop for further pedigree. If imported seed is sown, it must be labeled as authorized by an official certifying agency recognized by the CFIA.
- 1.12.2 The CSGA may refuse to recognize the pedigree of parent seed if:
- When the seed left the premises or the responsibility of the vendor or distributor, the pedigreed seed was not officially graded, tagged, labeled or documented.
 - Original container(s) of seed were split into different lots and then the lots were not resealed according to the federal *Seeds Act and Regulations* requirements.

- c) Official certification labels or documents were not on the parent seed containers when received by the purchaser.
- 1.12.3 Select seed being sold or transferred must be in closed containers, identified with Select tags provided by the CSGA and must meet the grading and conditioning, as well as germination and purity requirements, of the Canada Foundation grade of the federal *Seeds Act and Regulations*. A seed analysis certificate indicating mechanical purity and germination and test date should accompany Select seed.
- 1.12.4 Unless otherwise prescribed by the CSGA:
- a) Accredited plot growers may produce Select or Foundation plots from Breeder seed. Accredited plot growers may also produce Select plots from Select seed.
 - b) Probation plot growers may produce only one Probation plot in each year of Probation.
 - c) Growers, other than Select and Foundation plot growers accredited by the CSGA, planting Breeder seed or Select seed may be granted Registered or Certified status.
- 1.12.5 Seed from pedigreed crops, other than Breeder or Select seed, may be transferred to other parties for processing and grading in accordance with the federal *Seeds Act and Regulations*.
- 1.12.6 Bulk pedigreed seed may be delivered only by a Bulk Storage Facility registered pursuant to the federal *Seeds Act and Regulations*.
- 1.12.7 Applicants for crop inspection are responsible for ensuring that seed crops destined for seed certification under the OECD Seed Schemes meet all the certification requirements of the OECD Seed Schemes.

1.13 NUMBER OF VARIETIES PERMITTED

- 1.13.1 The CSGA reserves the right to refuse pedigreed status to any or all varieties when a seed grower is growing more varieties and kinds than the CSGA considers an acceptable seed production practice especially for plot production. For Select and Foundation plot production requirements, refer to Sections 11, 12 and 13.

1.14 DISEASE

- 1.14.1 Prevention of disease in pedigreed crops and seed is a very important factor in maintaining high production and seed quality. A crop may be declined pedigreed status because of the presence of disease which exceeds the limits established from time to time by the CSGA, unless the crop or seed is treated as recommended.
- 1.14.2 Seed borne disease standards may be established by official regulations.
- 1.14.3 A strict watch should be maintained for plant diseases at all levels of production. Suspicion of an unknown disease should be reported to the CFIA or provincial authority who can advise as to the necessary control treatment.
- 1.14.4 When seed treatment is recommended, all seed should be treated before planting.

1.15 REGULATIONS FOR OTHER CROPS

- 1.15.1 Regulations for most crop kinds not provided in this publication are available from the CSGA.

1.16 IMPORTATION OF PEDIGREED SEED

- 1.16.1 Pedigreed seed imported into Canada must meet the minimum standards for mechanical purity as prescribed by the federal *Seeds Act and Regulations*.
- 1.16.2 If the variety is subject to registration and is not registered for sale in Canada, the importer must comply with all requirements of the federal *Seeds Act and Regulations*, which may include an import declaration, sale pursuant to a contract and responsibility for all production.
- 1.16.3 Pedigreed seed of foreign origin may be imported into Canada but, if offered for sale by variety name, the seed must be graded and labelled with a Canada pedigreed grade name.

1.17 LAND USE INFORMATION

- 1.17.1 Regulations governing the land which is eligible to produce a pedigreed seed crop are based on sound cropping practices.
- 1.17.2 Crops should not be grown on land where volunteer growth from a previous crop may cause contamination.
- 1.17.3 Minimum requirements have been established for each crop kind and are outlined in the crop specific sections of these regulations.
- 1.17.4 When choosing land for a pedigreed seed crop the seed grower must consider the following:
- a) Will volunteer growth from the previous crop on this land provide a source of varietal contamination to the proposed seed crop?
 - b) Will any volunteer plants be difficult to rogue from the seed crop, or will their seed be difficult to separate?
 - c) Will seedborne disease problems occur in the crop as a result of previous crops?
 - d) Was the previous crop inspected for pedigree and did it meet CSGA standards?
- 1.17.5 If uncertain of the eligibility of land for seed production, the grower should use the *Land Use Verification* form (Form 101, Appendix A.9) to provide the following information to CSGA in writing, prior to planting:
- a) What variety, kind and class is intended for planting on the land this year?
 - b) When was the proposed crop kind (or variety) last grown on this land?
 - c) What was the variety and kind of the previous crops in the past 3 years?
 - d) Was a pedigreed class of seed used to sow the previous crops? If so, provide the crop certificate number covering the seed planted in the past 3 years.
 - e) Was the previous crop field inspected? If so, provide the crop certificate number issued for the inspected crop (not the crop certificate number of the seed sown).
 - f) Was the previous crop free of plants of the proposed crop kind to be grown this year?

- 1.17.6 If the land use plans outlined in the *Land Use Verification* (Form 101, Appendix A.9) meet the CSGA requirements, notice of approval is sent to the grower.
- 1.17.7 If a grower wishes to establish a land use eligibility record for subsequent pedigreed seed crop production on a particular field, this field should be included on the *Application for Seed Crop Certification*. Fees for land use inspections are paid directly to the CFIA or authorized crop inspection agency. Land use inspections are not used for subsequent production of the same crop kind.

1.18 STORING OF PARENT SEED

- 1.18.1 Clean, clearly identified and separate storage for all pedigreed seed is essential. Requirements and recommended procedures for handling and labelling pedigreed seed are outlined in Sections 2 and 5 of the Canadian Seed Institute (CSI) *Technical Manual for Approved Conditioners and Bulk Storage Facilities* and some conditions can require a new crop certificate to be issued by the CSGA.

1.19 ASSIGNMENT OF CROP CERTIFICATES

- 1.19.1 The grower of a pedigreed seed crop may assign the crop certificate to an assignee. The grower of the crop is defined as the person responsible for production of the seed crop from sowing to harvesting.
- 1.19.2 Inspectors will report to the CSGA those crops which do not appear to be grown under the direct management of the applicant for crop inspection.
- 1.19.3 Growers assign crop certificates to an assignee on the *Application for Seed Crop Certification*.
- 1.19.4 The *Application for Seed Crop Certification* should be submitted to the CSGA in the name of the grower.
- 1.19.5 The seed used to plant a crop with an assigned crop certificate must either be the grower's own seed or seed that has been graded and labeled according to the federal *Seeds Act and Regulations*. (Refer to Section 1.12 for details governing movement of pedigreed seed.)
- 1.19.6 Assignment of a crop certificate to an assignee means that the grower has directed the CSGA to issue that crop certificate in the names of both the grower and the assignee, to send that crop certificate to the assignee, to send a notification of issuance to the grower and to permit the assignee to access all CSGA certification records for that crop.
- 1.19.7 Cancellation of an assigned crop certificate which has been issued requires a request to the CSGA that is signed by all parties involved.

1.20 VARIETAL PURITY SEED STANDARD

- 1.20.1 Although crop inspection remains the primary method for assessing varietal purity in Canada, the standards for varietal purity of seed for Foundation, Registered and Certified grades are those established by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and published in the AOSCA Certification Handbook.

- 1.20.2 A CSGA exception to the AOSCA seed standards are the following maximum impurity standards for off-types and other varieties in Field Peas: 2/10,000 Foundation; 5/10,000 Registered; 20/10,000 Certified.

1.21 HIGHER VOLUNTARY OR ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

- 1.21.1 Seed crops may require higher voluntary or additional certification standards that are clearly defined in the variety description, provided that:
- a) the higher voluntary or additional certification standards have been communicated by the Breeder or variety distributor to all parties involved with regulation and production of the variety; and
 - b) when required to verify varietal identity, the CSGA has been authorized by the Breeder or variety distributor to require varietal purity verification testing before a crop certificate is issued by the CSGA.
- 1.21.2 Examples of higher voluntary or additional certification standards include previous land use or isolation distance requirements that exceed the standards in Circular 6, border row requirements and lab tests for varietal identity verification.
- 1.21.3 For additional certification standards that involve varietal blends, a refuge declaration (Form 182) stating the percent refuge must be submitted to CSGA before a crop certificate is issued. Unless otherwise specified in the additional certification standards, the refuge declaration shall provide the year the seed was produced, the CSGA crop sequence numbers, the test method name or number, the number of seeds tested and the confidence level of the test results.