
SECTION 1

REGULATIONS FOR ALL PEDIGREED SEED CROPS

1.1 A condition which will bring pedigreed seed into disrepute may be cause for declining certification of the seed crop.

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 The *Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification* and the *CSGA Membership Application/ Renewal Form* must be submitted to the CSGA each year in which a crop is grown and presented for 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 membership in the CSGA.

1.3 **APPLICATION FOR CSGA 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 CSGA Seed Crop Certification* and the *CSGA Membership Application/Renewal Form* are available from the CSGA or from CSGA's website at www.seedgrowers.ca.

1.3.2 Crops for which applications for 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 CSGA Seed Crop Certification* and the *CSGA Membership Application/Renewal Form*, 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 pedigreed status or class of the parent seed of crops for which an application for seed crop certification has been made. When seed is transferred from one party to another party, whether sold or not it must be either 1) in a sealed package, labelled with an official seed certification tag or 2) accompanied by a

bulk pedigreed seed certificate if transferred in bulk. 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 certification 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.

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. The grower must contact CSGA if it is unclear if separate applications are required.
- 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, stage of maturity 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. 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 and other varieties, and, where required, other crop kinds and weeds. Walkways in crops such as peas and industrial hemp can be helpful.

1.7 CROP INSPECTION

1.7.1 The number of inspections required is determined by the crop kind. There shall be at least one field inspection of each seed crop.

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.1.1).

- 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 re-inspection, by an authorized seed crop inspector. Any charges incurred for such re-inspections will be the responsibility of the grower.
- 1.7.8 The CSGA is under no obligation to authorize re-inspections 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 a "land use" inspection. Fees for this service are paid directly to the CFIA or authorized seed crop inspection service. (Refer to Section 1.17.)

1.8 CROP CERTIFICATES

- 1.8.1 A crop certificate (refer to Appendix A.1.2) 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 CSGA Seed Crop Certification* in 1.19, Assignment of Crop Certificates except as set out in 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 ineligible for certification unless approved by the CSGA. A fee will be assessed.
- 1.8.5 The grower may assign a crop certificate to another party on the *Application for CSGA 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) and factual, verifiable information. For most crop kinds, the appeal request should be submitted to CSGA by October 15 of the year of crop inspection. Growers should submit appeal request for fall sown crops by September 1st and for soybean crops by December 1st.

- 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 will 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 re-inspection by an authorized seed crop inspector.

1.10 FEES

- 1.10.1 Applicable fees are published by and payable to the CSGA.
- 1.10.2 The CSGA does not collect fees incurred for re-inspection and inspection for “land use”. These fees are paid directly to the authorized seed crop inspection service.
- 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 a Breeder seed crop certificate. 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 Breeder Seed Crop Production*, 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 variety 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 shall have a minimum mechanical purity at least equal to that required for Canada Foundation seed verified by a seed analysis certificate which shall 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 pedigreed status certification. If imported seed is sown, it must be labelled as authorized by an official certifying agency recognized by the CFIA.
- 1.12.2 The CSGA may refuse to recognize the pedigreed status of parent seed if:
- In the case of Foundation and Registered status seed, the seed was transferred to the seed grower without being officially graded, tagged, labelled or documented.
 - Original container(s) of seed were split into different lots and then the lots were not resealed according to the *Seeds Regulations* requirements.

- c) There is doubt as to the origin, pedigreed status, quantity, or validity of the documentation.
 - d) 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 requirements, as well as germination and purity requirements, of the Canada Foundation grade of the *Seeds Regulations*. A seed analysis certificate indicating mechanical purity and germination and test date shall accompany Select seed. The seller shall inform the buyer of how many generations from Breeder the seed has already been multiplied.
- 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 for a limited number of generations.
 - b) Probation plot growers may produce only one Probation plot in each year of Probation.
 - c) Growers, other than Select, Foundation and probation 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 *Seeds Regulations*.
- 1.12.6 Bulk pedigreed seed may be delivered only by a Bulk Storage Facility registered pursuant to the *Seeds Regulations*. It shall be accompanied, when transferred, by a bulk pedigreed seed certificate.
- 1.12.7 Applicants for crop certification 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 crops 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 A strict watch shall be maintained for plant diseases at all levels of production. Suspicion of an unknown disease shall be reported to the CFIA or provincial authority who can advise as to the necessary control treatment.
- 1.14.3 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 PARENT SEED

- 1.16.1 Parent seed imported into Canada must meet the minimum standards for mechanical purity as prescribed by the *Seeds Regulations*. Imported seed is also subject to the *Plant Protection Act* and other regulatory requirements.
- 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 *Seeds Regulations*, which may include an import declaration, sale pursuant to a contract and responsibility for all production.
- 1.16.3 Parent seed of foreign origin must be graded and labelled with a Canada pedigreed grade name, if sold as Foundation or Registered seed. When the seed is transferred to a grower, it must:
- a) Be labelled with the original seed certification labels of the foreign seed certifying agency
 - b) Be labelled with official inter-agency certification labels/tags, or
 - c) Be accompanied by a bulk transfer certificate.
- 1.16.4 Breeder seed of foreign origin must be labelled with labels/tags that include the name of the variety, the crop kind, the Breeder seed crop certificate number (if certified by CSGA) or certification reference number (if certified by an official agency in another country), the lot number assigned by the Breeder or seed processor, and the signature, name and address of the CSGA recognized plant breeder responsible for the seed.

1.17 LAND USE INFORMATION

- 1.17.1 Regulations governing the land which is eligible to produce a pedigreed seed crop are based on scientific principles and sound cropping practices.
- 1.17.2 Crops are not to 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 certification 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) to provide information to CSGA prior to planting.
- 1.17.6 If the land use plans outlined in the *Land Use Verification Form* (Form 101, Appendix A.2.3) 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 CSGA Seed Crop Certification*. Fees for land use inspections are paid directly to the authorized seed crop inspection service. 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 the Canadian Seed Institute (CSI) *Technical Manual for Approved Conditioners and Bulk Storage Facilities*. If two or more Foundation or Registered status seed lots of the same variety are combined, the *Seeds Regulations* 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 CSGA Seed Crop Certification*.
- 1.19.4 The *Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification* shall be submitted to the CSGA in the name of the grower.
- 1.19.5 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 and to permit the assignee to access all CSGA certification records for that crop.
- 1.19.6 Cancellation of an assigned crop certificate which has been issued requires a documented request to the CSGA that is agreed to by all parties involved.

1.20 VARIETAL PURITY SEED STANDARD

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

- 1.20.2 An 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 be subject to 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;
 - b) when required to verify varietal identity, the CSGA has been authorized by the Breeder or variety distributor to require variety verification testing before a crop certificate is issued by the CSGA; and
 - c) the higher voluntary or additional certification standards have been approved 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 variety identity or trait purity verification.
- 1.21.3 For additional certification standards that involve varietal blends, a refuge declaration (Form 182) stating the percentage of each component 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.