

## General Requirements for All Pedigreed Seed Crops

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This section outlines the general requirements that are applicable to all pedigreed seed crops. Requirements for land use and crop inspection and individual crop standards for each crop kind can be found in the crop specific sections of Circular 6. General requirements that are applicable to plot production can be found in the “General Requirements for Plot Production” section. General requirements that are applicable to probation plot production can be found in the “General Requirements for Probation Plot Production” section.

### 1. Membership

- (1) Any person, partnership or organization producing or undertaking to produce pedigree seed must apply for membership in the Canadian Seed Growers’ Association (CSGA), in accordance with the by-laws.
- (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 seed crop is grown and presented for certification.
- (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.
- (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.

### 2. Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification and CSGA Membership Application/Renewal

- (1) Applicants 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’s website at [www.seedgrowers.ca](http://www.seedgrowers.ca)
- (2) The *Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification* shall be submitted to the CSGA in the name of the seed grower producing the seed crop from sowing to harvest. The seed grower may be required to provide the CSGA with information confirming effective ongoing oversight and control of the production of the seed crop.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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 deadline dates published by the CSGA.

### 3. Determination of Eligibility, Status and Class

- (1) A condition which will bring pedigreed seed into disrepute may be cause for declining certification of the seed crop.
- (2) The CSGA reserves the right to determine the eligibility of any seed 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 except as provided by CSGA’s Recertification Policy.
- (3) CSGA may require submission of a seed sample for variety verification testing. Variety verification testing consists of varietal identity confirmation and varietal purity determinations. It is a check on the seed certification system and provides valuable data on the system’s performance.
- (4) The CSGA reserves the right to withhold and/or recall the crop certificate for seed crops where CSGA has

reasonable grounds to believe that there is a varietal identity or varietal purity issue with either the parent seed, the seed crop or the seed harvested from the crop. The evidence may include, but is not limited to, information obtained through CFIA oversight and monitoring activities.

#### **4. Crop Certificates**

- (1) A crop certificate will be issued in the name of the seed grower as indicated on the *Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification* except as set out below.
- (2) Crop certificates for hybrid crops may be issued to the person or company responsible for the variety.
- (3) The record of seed crop production is credited to the CSGA production record of the grower of the crop.
- (4) The grower may assign a crop certificate to another party on the *Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification*. The names of both the seed grower and the assignee will appear on the crop certificate provided the assignment is received by the CSGA before the crop certificate is issued.
- (5) The CSGA reserves the right to issue a crop certificate to the seed grower if an assignment has not been received prior to the certificate issuance.
- (6) The CSGA reserves the right to delay issuing a crop certificate until the applicant's account has been paid in full.
- (7) Crop certificates are not valid unless the grower (or assignee if covered by a separate declaration of the grower) signs the certificate declaring that the seed from the crop has not become mixed with any other seed while in their possession, except as authorized by the *Seeds Regulations*, and provides the total estimated quantity of seed harvested from the seed crop(s) before cleaning.

#### **5. Assignment of Crop Certificates**

- (1) The grower of a pedigreed seed crop may assign the crop certificate to an assignee.
- (2) Growers assign crop certificates to an assignee on the *Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification*.
- (3) Assignment of a crop certificate to an assignee means that the seed grower has directed the CSGA to issue that crop certificate to the assignee and to permit the assignee to access all CSGA certification records for that crop.
- (4) 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.

#### **6. Appeals**

- (1) A seed 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<sup>th</sup> of the year of crop inspection. Growers should submit appeal request for fall sown crops by September 1<sup>st</sup> and for soybean crops by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- (2) Although an assignee may support the appeal, the *Appeal Application* must be submitted under the signature of the grower of the crop.
- (3) The appeal will be reviewed by the Appeals Committee of the CSGA Board of Directors.
- (4) If corrective action is taken by the seed grower to correct a problem with the crop, the grower should immediately request re-inspection by an authorized inspector.

#### **7. Fees**

- (1) Applicable fees are published by and payable to the CSGA.
- (2) 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.

## 8. Breeder Seed Production

- (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](http://www.seedgrowers.ca)
- (2) Breeder seed can only be demoted and sold as Foundation or Registered seed provided the seed lot is subject to official variety verification testing and a crop certificate of the demoted class has been issued by the CSGA.
- (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.

## 9. Transfer and Sale of Seed from Pedigreed Seed Crops

- (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 certification. If imported seed is sown, it must be labelled as authorized by an official seed certifying agency recognized by the CFIA.
- (2) The CSGA may refuse to recognize the pedigreed status of parent seed if:
  - (a) 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;
  - (b) Original container(s) of seed were split into different lots and 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; or
  - (d) Official certification labels or documents were not on the parent seed containers when received by the purchaser.
- (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 seed the seed has already been multiplied. If Select seed is to be demoted to a lower status, a Foundation crop certificate must be obtained from the CSGA to meet the requirements of the *Seeds Regulations* for seed to be of Foundation, Registered or Certified status if graded with one of the Canada Foundation, Registered or Certified grade names. To further demote Foundation status seed to Registered or Certified, the standard procedure for the demotion of Foundation status seed shall be followed.
- (4) 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*.
- (5) 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.
- (6) Applicants for crop certification are responsible for ensuring that seed crops destined for seed certification under the OECD Seed Schemes meet all of the certification requirements of the OECD Seed Schemes.

## 10. Imported Parent Seed

- (1) Parent seed imported into Canada must meet the minimum standards for mechanical purity as described by the *Seeds Regulations*. Imported seed is also subject to the *Plant Protection Act* and other regulatory requirements.

- (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 sale pursuant to a contract and responsibility for all production.
- (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 pedigreed seed certificate.
- (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.

## **11. Storing of Parent Seed**

- (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*.
- (2) If two or more Foundation or Registered seed lots of the same variety are combined, the *Seeds Regulations* require a new crop certificate to be issued by the CSGA.

## **12. Number of Varieties Permitted (Revoked February 1, 2022)**

## **13. Requirements for Other Crops**

- (1) Requirements for crop kinds not provided in this publication may be available from the CSGA.

## **14. Evidence of Pedigree**

- (1) Growers must present satisfactory evidence of the pedigreed status or class, and the quantity, of the parent seed planted of crops for which an application for seed crop certification has been made.
- (2) When seed is transferred from one party to another party, whether sold or not it must be either (a) in a sealed package, labelled with an official seed certification tag or (b) accompanied by a bulk pedigreed seed certificate if transferred in bulk.
- (3) All pedigreed seed labels or documentation must be retained and made available to the authorized inspector and to the CSGA upon request.

## **15. Seed Classes and Generations and Specific Requirements**

### **15.1 Barley, Bean, Buckwheat, Canary seed, Chickpea, Durum, Fababean, Flax, Lentil, Lupin, Oat, Pea, Rye, Soybean, Triticale, Wheat**

- (1) The number of official pedigreed classes is determined by the Breeder of the variety, normally Foundation, Registered and Certified.
  - (a) Breeder: no generation limit.
  - (b) Select: normally 5 generations (except Beans, which are limited to one generation).
  - (c) Foundation: one generation.
  - (d) Registered: one generation.
  - (e) Certified: one generation.
- (2) Only CSGA recognized plant breeders can produce Breeder seed. Breeder seed is produced in plots (maximum 2.5 acres/plot).

- (3) Only accredited Plot Growers can produce Select seed. Select seed is produced in plots (maximum 2.5 acres/plot).
- (4) For those growers who are not accredited Plot Growers or on probation to become a Plot Grower, and who plant crops with Breeder or Select seed, the CSGA reserves the right to determine the status of the crop and may issue a Foundation, Registered or Certified crop certificate.

### **15.2 Canola, Carinata, Mustard, Radish, Rapeseed**

- (1) The number of official pedigreed classes is determined by the Breeder of the variety, normally Foundation and Certified.
  - (a) Breeder: no generation limit.
  - (b) Select Technical Blend: a physical blend of specific proportions of seed harvested from Breeder or Foundation plots used in the production of Certified seed crops of composite varieties. Crops sown with Select Technical Blend seed are for Certified status only.
  - (c) Foundation: one generation.
  - (d) Certified: one generation.
- (2) Only CSGA recognized plant breeders can produce Breeder seed. Breeder seed is produced in plots (maximum 2.5 acres/plot).
- (3) Only accredited Plot Growers can produce Foundation seed. Foundation seed is produced in plots (maximum 2.5 acres/plot). For hybrid varieties, Foundation is the parent line/s.
- (4) For those growers who are not accredited Plot Growers who plant crops with Breeder seed, the CSGA reserves the right to determine the status of the inspected crop and may issue a Certified crop certificate.
- (5) Composite varieties have descriptions that confirm they are not hybrids and that at least 70% of progeny result from crossing of the parent lines.
- (6) Breeder or Foundation status seed must be used to establish all stands of Hybrid Canola, Hybrid Rapeseed and Hybrid Mustard for certification.
- (7) It is recommended that not more than one variety or crop kind of Canola, Carinata, Mustard, Radish or Radish be grown under the management of one grower.
- (8) The CSGA may require seed test results from a recognized laboratory, indicating a satisfactory erucic acid and/or glucosinolate content before a crop certificate is issued.

### **15.3 Alfalfa, Bentgrass, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Bluegrass, Bromegrass, Clover, Fescue, Foxtail, Junegrass, Needlegrass, Orchardgrass, Phacelia, Reed Canarygrass, Redtop, Ryegrass, Sainfoin, Timothy, Vetch, Wheatgrass, Wild Rye**

- (1) Varieties will normally be multiplied through Breeder, Foundation and Certified classes only, with one generation in each class, unless otherwise specified by the Breeder and the official seed certification authority in the state or country of origin. Some varieties have a Registered class.
- (2) Only CSGA recognized plant breeders can produce Breeder seed. Breeder seed is produced in plots (maximum 2.5 acres/plot).
- (3) A Foundation seed crop is normally grown from planting Breeder seed. No grower accreditation is required to produce Foundation seed and there is no maximum field size.
- (4) A Registered seed crop is grown from planting Breeder or Foundation seed.
- (5) A Certified seed crop is grown from planting Breeder, Foundation, or Registered seed.
- (6) Tags from the seed planted must be retained for the life of the stand and made available to the authorized inspector and/or the CSGA upon request.

## 15.4 Industrial Hemp

- (1) The number of official pedigreed classes is determined by the Breeder of the variety, normally Foundation, Registered and Certified.
  - (a) Breeder: no generation limit.
  - (b) Foundation: one generation.
  - (c) Registered: one generation.
  - (d) Certified: one generation.
- (2) Only CSGA recognized plant breeders can produce Breeder seed. Breeder seed is produced in plots (maximum 2.5 acres/plot).
- (3) Only accredited Plot Growers can produce Foundation seed. Foundation seed is produced in plots (maximum 2.5 acres/plot).
- (4) For those growers who are not accredited Plot Growers who plant crops with Breeder seed, the CSGA reserves the right to determine the status of the inspected crop and may issue a Registered or Certified crop certificate.
- (5) With the exception of Breeder seed, only varieties of Industrial Hemp approved by Health Canada are eligible for certification.
- (6) CSGA recognized plant breeders may cultivate, and CSGA may certify, seed crops of varieties that are not approved by Health Canada.
- (7) It is recommended that not more than one variety of Industrial Hemp be grown under the management of one grower.
- (8) All male flowers rogued from the crop should be removed from the field and regrowth of rogued male flowers or plants must be prevented.
- (9) Growers are required by Health Canada to obtain THC results, from a recognized laboratory, verifying that the THC content of their Industrial Hemp crop complies with Health Canada regulations. Growers may be required to submit these results to the CSGA before a crop certificate is issued.

## 16. Land Use Requirements

- (1) Requirements governing the land which is eligible to produce a pedigreed seed crop are based on scientific principles and sound cropping practices.
- (2) Crops should not be planted on land where volunteer growth from a previous crop may cause contamination.
- (3) Minimum requirements have been established for each crop kind and are outlined in the crop specific sections of Circular 6.
- (4) The status granted to crops of Barley, Bean, Buckwheat, Canary seed, Chickpea, Durum, Fababean, Flax, Lentil, Lupin, Oat, Pea, Rye, Soybean, Triticale and Wheat is determined by the previous crop.
  - (a) Land requirements prevent production of higher pedigreed status crop (of the same variety) than the pedigreed status of the crop produced on that land the previous year.
  - (b) Breeder or Select seed of the same variety may be sown in two consecutive years on the same land and the crop will be eligible for Foundation status. The third and fourth consecutive crops of the same variety on the same land, if planted with Breeder, Select or Foundation seed, will be eligible for Registered status.
  - (c) Foundation seed of the same variety may be sown in two consecutive years on the same land and the crop will be eligible for Registered status. The third and fourth consecutive crops of the same variety on the same land, if planted with Breeder, Select, Foundation or Registered seed, will be eligible for Certified status.

- (d) Breeder, Select, Foundation or Registered seed of the same variety may be sown to produce a Certified seed crop on the same land for unlimited consecutive years.
- (5) 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?
- (6) If uncertain of the eligibility of the land for seed production, the grower should use the *Land Use Verification Form* (Form 101) to provide information to CSGA prior to planting.
- (7) If the land use plans outlined in the *Land Use Verification Form* meet the CSGA requirements, a notice of approval is sent to the grower.
- (8) 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.

## 17. Crop Inspection

- (1) The number of inspections required is determined by the crop kind. There shall be at least one field inspection of each seed crop. The inspection must be conducted by an authorized inspector. Authorized inspectors include official CFIA inspectors or inspectors licensed by the CFIA to perform seed crop inspection operating under the supervision of an authorized seed crop inspection service. The inspector must be licensed for the respective crop kind and class. The CSGA may, after approval by the CFIA, accept an inspection report from an individual who is not an authorized inspector in exceptional circumstances.
- (2) The crop must be inspected at a stage of growth when varietal purity is best determined. Crops not inspected at the proper stage for best determining varietal purity may be cause for declining pedigreed status.
- (3) The number of inspections and the proper stage of growth have been established for each crop kind and are outlined in the crop specific sections of Circular 6.
- (4) It is the grower's responsibility to ensure that crops are inspected prior to swathing or harvesting. A crop that is cut, swathed, or harvested prior to crop inspection is not eligible for pedigree.
- (5) For perennial crops, crop inspection by an authorized inspector is required each year that a pedigreed seed crop is to be harvested.
- (6) It is the responsibility of the grower at the time of application to correctly identify the location of the crops to be inspected.
- (7) When the authorized inspector submits the completed *Seed Crop Inspection Report* to the CSGA, the grower also receives a copy. The report is appraised by the CSGA to determine the eligibility of the seed crop for certification.
- (8) If corrective action verification is required by the CSGA (e.g., to correct an isolation issue) or if the grower voluntarily takes corrective action to seek certification of a declined field or to improve the status of a demoted field (e.g., rogues the field to reduce the number of impurities), the grower has the right to request a re-inspection at the grower's expense. Re-inspections must also be conducted by an authorized inspector.

- (9) If not satisfied with the *Seed Crop Inspection Report* (e.g., the classification or identification of off-type plants is challenged), the grower may request a referee inspection, by an official CFIA inspector. Any charges incurred for such referee inspections will be the responsibility of the grower.
- (10) The CSGA is under no obligation to authorize re-inspections requested because of a grower's failure to comply with Circular 6 requirements.
- (11) A commercial crop may be inspected to assess the eligibility of the land for pedigreed seed production the following year.

## 18. Age of Stand

- (1) For most perennial crops there is a specified maximum number of years during which pedigreed seed may be harvested from one planting, referred to as the Age of Stand. The Age of Stand requirements are outlined in the crop specific sections of Circular 6. The Age of Stand may be extended with permission of CSGA.
- (2) The pedigreed class of the seed crop will vary by crop species, the class of seed used to establish the crop, the classes of seed through which a given variety may be multiplied as designated by the Breeder or the authorized agent of the Breeder and the number of years the stand has been in production.
- (3) Additional limitations on the Age of Stand through which a variety may be multiplied outside the region of adaptation may be specified by the Breeder or the authorized agent of the Breeder.
- (4) For calculating the Age of Stand:
  - (a) The first seed crop is the first year in which a seed crop could normally be harvested, irrespective of time or method of planting.
  - (b) Each calendar year thereafter will be considered a seed crop year. For example: Timothy sown without a companion crop in the fall is normally considered capable of producing seed the following year. Timothy seeded with pedigreed seed of Winter Wheat as a companion crop in the fall will be considered for the first year of seed production in the second year after planting.
  - (c) If rejuvenation is used as a management practice, it will count as a year of production in calculating the Age of Stand.

## 19. Crop Unit and Isolation

- (1) Isolation requirements are outlined in the crop specific sections of Circular 6 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.
  - (e) The required isolation must be provided prior to the time of flowering and crop inspection.
- (2) Isolation requirements for Foundation, Registered and Certified production of Barley, Bean, Buckwheat, Canary seed, Chickpea, Durum, Fababean, Flax, Lentil, Lupin, Oat, Pea, Rye, Soybean, Triticale and Wheat include the following:
  - (a) The required isolation may be clean summerfallow, non-contaminating native growth, forage crop, cultivated row crop of another kind, the seeds of which are not difficult to separate from the seeds of



- the inspected crop, or a mowed grain crop, provided the plants in the mowed isolation do not form seed heads or in any way constitute a source of contamination.
- (b) Any plants considered a source of contamination found within 3 meters (10 feet) of the inspected crop may be reason for declining pedigreed status.
  - (c) The required isolation of 2 meters (6 feet) for mechanical purity is not required if there is a definite physical barrier, defined as a natural or artificial obstacle between two adjacent crops that prevents access and accidental harvest.
  - (d) Staking of a field is permitted in lieu of the 1 meter (3 feet) isolation strip required between inspected pedigreed crops of the same variety provided it meets the following requirements:
    - (i) Stake locations must be clearly identified on map(s) provided to authorized inspectors.
    - (ii) Stakes must be placed no more than 100 meters (330 feet) apart.
    - (iii) Staking must be clearly visible and clearly define the border of the field at the time of inspection.
- (3) 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.
- (4) 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.

## **20. Disease**

- (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.
- (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.
- (3) When seed treatment is recommended, all seed should be treated before planting.

## **21. Weeds**

- (1) All crops for pedigree must be free of Prohibited noxious weeds.
- (2) Very weedy crops will be declined pedigreed status.

## **22. Maximum Impurity Standards**

- (1) Crops contaminated with limited amounts of other crop kinds which are readily removable in processing and do not hinder crop inspection may be allowed pedigreed status.
- (2) Impurities in pedigreed seed crops should be removed prior to crop inspection.
- (3) Any combination of impurities may be reason for declining pedigreed status.
- (4) Impurity standards have been established for each crop kind and are outlined in the crop specific sections of Circular 6 and are the maximum levels for impurities. Variants may be specified by the responsible Breeder and are not considered impurities unless reported in excess of the acceptable level specified.
- (5) Impurity standards indicate the maximum number of plants of off-types/other varieties or other kinds permitted. For most crop kinds (e.g., Wheat, Soybeans), the standard indicates how many plants are permitted in 10,000 plants. For some crop kinds (e.g., Alfalfa, Timothy), the standard indicates how many plants are permitted in 10 or 100 m<sup>2</sup>. The authorized inspector makes 6 counts in the field to determine the number of impurities. The resulting average must not exceed the maximum impurity standard for the crop kind and class.

### **23. Higher Voluntary or Additional Certification Requirements**

- (1) Seed crops may be subject to higher voluntary or additional certification requirements that are clearly defined provided that the higher voluntary or additional certification requirements have been approved by the CSGA.
- (2) The higher voluntary or additional certification requirements must be communicated by the Breeder/Variety Developer or Variety Distributor to all parties involved with regulation and production of the variety.
- (3) Where the Breeder/Variety Developer or Variety Distributor specifies that a laboratory test shall be completed on a representative sample of the harvested seed prior to certification of the seed crop, the CSGA shall withhold the crop certificate, pending receipt of satisfactory test results from a laboratory recognized by the Breeder/Variety Developer or Variety Distributor as defined in the higher voluntary or additional certification requirement.
- (4) Examples of higher voluntary or additional certification requirements include previous land use or isolation distance or border row requirements that exceed the requirements set out in this document, and lab tests for variety or trait purity verification.
- (5) For higher voluntary requirements that involve varietal blends for plant pest tolerance management purposes, 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 higher voluntary requirements, 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.

### **24. Varietal Purity Seed Standard**

- (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.
- (2) Exceptions 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.