

III. General Requirements for Probation Plot Production

General requirements that are applicable to all pedigreed seed crops can be found in the “General Requirements for All Pedigreed Seed Crops” section of Circular 6. Requirements for land use and crop inspection and individual crop standards for each crop kind can be found in the crop specific sections. The crop specific requirements for Select and Foundation plot production are applicable to Probation plot production e.g., the previous land use and isolation requirements for Select Wheat plots are also applicable to Probation Wheat plots. In addition, the following general requirements apply to Probation plot production.

1. Qualifications

- (1) An individual seed grower wishing to produce Select and/or Foundation plots must receive permission from the CSGA and meet the requirements of the CSGA before commencing Probation plot production.
- (2) An Application to Commence Probation Plot Production (Form 154) is available from the CSGA’s website at www.seedgrowers.ca and should be submitted prior to March 31 for spring seeded crops and prior to July 31 for fall seeded crops.
- (3) The grower may be required to have grown pedigreed seed crops in at least three (3) of the previous five (5) years. This can be reduced to two (2) of the previous four (4) years, providing:
 - (a) An accredited Plot Grower or CSGA recognized plant breeder submits a declaration that the grower has sufficient seed crop production knowledge to produce plots, or
 - (b) The grower has completed the required e-learning module/s.
- (4) An individual seed grower must complete three (3) successful years of Probation plot production to be granted accredited Plot Grower status. This can be reduced to two (2) years providing the grower has completed the required e-learning module/s by April 1st of the second year of Probation plot production.
 - (a) This status is granted to an individual seed grower only.
 - (b) This status cannot be acquired through an affiliation with another seed grower or transferred to or from other accredited Plot Growers.
- (5) Probationary growers may change the variety within the crop kind which they started their probation without receiving prior permission from the CSGA. Growers must complete the entire probationary period within the same crop kind.
- (6) Probationary plot growers may produce only one plot in each year of probation.

2. Parent Seed Source and Status of Plots During Probation

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

- (1) Plots for first year probation status must be planted with Breeder seed approved by the CSGA. Select seed may be planted with the prior approval of the CSGA. OECD Pre-Basic may be eligible for Probation plot production. Growers should confirm eligibility with CSGA in advance.
- (2) Probation Bean plots must be planted with Breeder seed approved by the CSGA each year of probation, unless otherwise specified by the Breeder, to reduce the risk of seedborne disease transmission.
- (3) Probation plot growers must obtain new Breeder or Select seed if the plot is demoted or declined for any reason other than excess acreage.
- (4) Breeder seed is obtained directly from the organization responsible for the distribution of the variety.
- (5) The status granted to plots produced during the probation period is as follows:
 - (a) Prior to final year of probation: provided all requirements are met, the plot will be granted Foundation status. Sufficient seed is selected from this plot to plant the Probation plot the next year and the balance of this seed may be used to produce Registered or Certified seed.

- (b) Final year of probation: provided all requirements are met, the plot will be granted Select status and the seed may be used for further Select or Foundation production. The grower is now eligible to produce Select and Foundation plots.

2.2 Canola, Carinata, Mustard, Radish, Rapeseed

- (1) Plots for Probation status must be planted with Breeder seed approved by the CSGA each year of probation. OECD Pre-Basic may be eligible for Probation plot production. Growers should confirm eligibility with CSGA in advance.
- (2) Breeder seed is obtained directly from the organization responsible for the distribution of the variety.
- (3) The status granted to plots produced during the probation period is as follows:
 - (a) Prior to final year of probation: provided all requirements are met, the plot will be granted Foundation status. Breeder or Pre-Basic seed must be obtained for the next year plot.
 - (b) Final year of probation: provided all requirements are met, the plot will be granted Foundation status. The grower is now eligible to produce Select and Foundation plots.

2.3 Industrial Hemp

- (1) Plots for Probation status must be planted with Breeder seed approved by the CSGA of a variety on Health Canada's List of Approved Cultivars each year of probation. OECD Pre-Basic may be eligible for Probation plot production. Growers should confirm eligibility with CSGA in advance.
- (2) Breeder seed is obtained directly from the organization responsible for the distribution of the variety.
- (3) The status granted to plots produced during the probation period is as follows:
 - (a) Prior to final year of probation: provided all requirements are met, the plot will be granted Foundation status. Breeder or Pre-Basic seed must be obtained for the next year plot.
 - (b) Final year of probation: provided all requirements are met, the plot will be granted Foundation status. The grower is now eligible to produce Select and Foundation plots.

3. Area of Probation Plots

- (1) The total area of a Probation plot must not exceed 1.0 hectare (2.5 acres) or be less than 0.25 hectare (0.5 acre).
- (2) The total area of a Probation plot includes "walkways" provided within the plot to facilitate effective roguing.
- (3) When unforeseen circumstances do not permit proper maintenance of the entire plot, it is recommended that the area be reduced by destroying part of the plot or by isolating a part to meet the requirements of a lower status of pedigreed seed. The remainder must meet the requirements for Probation plot production.

4. Isolation for Probation Plots

4.1 Barley, Buckwheat, Canary seed, Chickpea, Durum, Fababean, Flax, Lentil, Lupin, Oat, Pea, Rye, Soybean, Triticale, Wheat

- (1) A 1 meter (3 feet) isolation strip is required between plots of the same variety and between plots and the adjacent pedigreed seed crops providing that the adjacent seed crops were planted:
 - (a) with the same seed;
 - (b) on land with the same previous land use history.
- (2) The isolation strip must not be a source of contamination.
- (3) Plots of Barley, Buckwheat, Camelina, Canary seed, Durum, Fenugreek, Flax, Oat, Rye, Triticale and Wheat need not be isolated from crops of Bean, Chickpea, Fababean, Lentil, Lupin, Pea and Soybean.

- (4) Staking of a plot perimeter is permitted, in lieu of the 1 meter (3 feet) isolation strip if it meets CSGA requirements for plot staking, which include the following:
 - (a) Stake locations must be clearly identified on map(s) provided to crop inspectors;
 - (b) Staking must include at least 8 stakes that are clearly visible and clearly define the perimeter of the plot at the time of inspection;
 - (c) Impurities reported within a plot's isolation distance are considered within the plot for CSGA appraisal purposes.

5. Specific Requirements for Probation Plots

- (1) Any means of processing or conditioning of seed from a Probation plot which may contaminate the varietal purity of the seed is prohibited.
- (2) A Report of Plot Production (Form 50) for each Probation plot must be completed and submitted to the CSGA prior to issuance of the crop certificate.
- (3) A sample of clean seed from each Probation plot must be submitted for variety verification. The sample must be representative of the seed harvested from the plot.