

Breeder Memo 2023

This document provides information for plant breeders regarding Breeder seed plot production. Please consult the [Application Support Document](#) for general instructions on how to apply for seed crop certification and membership, and for highlighted changes for the 2023 crop season.

Breeder Memo 2023	1
New Canadian Breeder Seed Requirements	2
CSGA Learn.....	2
Reminders for Associate Plant Breeders	3
Form 50 Data.....	3
Applications for CSGA Seed Crop Certification – Submit early!	3
Third Party Account Information and Consent Form	3
Tags Bearing Breeder Signatures.....	3
Applying for Certification of New Varieties	4
Voluntary Release of Contact Information	4
Quality Management System Audits	4
Breeder Seed Demotions	4
Breeder Seed for Export	4
SeedCert – Online Portal for Crop Production Records & Certification Status	4
Management of Reference Material Seed Submitted to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency	6

New Canadian Breeder Seed Requirements

On July 1, 2023, the new [Canadian Breeder Seed Requirements](#) (BSR) came into effect and replace the current *Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Breeder Seed Crop Production*. The BSR describes the requirements for CSGA recognition of plant breeders, Breeder seed crop production, and the approval of Breeder seed. Years of preparation and consultation have gone into the revised BSR and CSGA thanks those that have participated in their development and the consultation process.

The policy revisions include:

- Requiring completion of an *Application for Approval of Breeder Seed Not Certified by the CSGA* (Form 40) for all Breeder seed which has not been certified by the CSGA used to plant seed crops for certification in Canada where Select, Foundation, Registered or Certified seed is being produced.
 - CSGA appraisers already approve (i.e., determine the eligibility of the) Breeder seed for producing certified seed crops. This more formal process will allow CSGA to obtain some basic information, such as the year and location where the seed was produced and determine the eligibility of the parent seed earlier in the season (e.g., before the seed is imported, planted, and inspected.)
- Requiring Breeder seed to meet Foundation No. 1 standards for varietal purity.
- Requiring Breeder seed to meet Certified No. 1 standards for mechanical purity (new) while (still) recommending that Breeder seed should meet Foundation No. 1 standards.
- Requiring a declaration from the applicant (on the *Application for a Breeder Seed Crop Certificate*, F43) that the Breeder seed harvested from the plot had been tested for diseases observed in the plot, with the addition of several diseases to the list where there is sufficient risk of the disease being transmitted by seed to warrant testing, rather than always requiring disease test results for those kinds/diseases.
- Clarifying the authority of CSGA-Recognized Plant Breeders (RPB) and Associate Plant Breeders (APB) and permitting APB to perform certain activities if the RPB overseeing the APB specifically authorizes them to do so.
- Making completion of all three courses of the *CSGA Learn Plant Breeder Program* a mandatory requirement for individuals applying for recognition for both the RPB and APB classifications in the future.
- Simplifying the quality management system “audit frequency” requirements and requiring an audit to be completed every five (5) years.

If you have questions or concerns regarding the new BSR, please email [Gail Harris](#).

CSGA Learn

CSGA Learn, CSGA’s new online learning platform, has launched! We invite you to enroll at [csgalearn.ca](#). The platform offers ten individual courses and four specialized programs, including one developed specifically for plant breeders. Going forward, the [Plant Breeder Program](#) is a requirement for those seeking status as a CSGA-Recognized Plant Breeder or Associate Plant Breeder. In instances where an Associate Plant Breeder is seeking recognition as a CSGA-Recognized Plant Breeder, they must complete the learning program if they have not done so previously.

Reminders for Associate Plant Breeders

So long as their work is being overseen by a CSGA-Recognized Plant Breeder (RPB), Associate Plant Breeders (APB) have the same privileges as a fully recognized breeder (RPB). For example, APBs may submit an *Application for a Breeder Seed Crop Certificate* (Form 43) provided they have an RPB's authorization to do so. In 2023, APBs will be asked for the name of the RPB overseeing their work and their authorization.

If you are an APB and wish to become an RPB, please submit an *Application for Plant Breeder Recognition* (Form 43A), which can now be found in a digital format on the "Forms" tab in [SeedCert](#).

Form 50 Data

Every Select or Foundation plot that is produced requires a *Report of Plot Production* (Form 50) to be submitted to CSGA. These forms contain information specific to the production of that plot, such as disease incidence and off-types, as well as agronomic information that will be voluntarily provided in 2023. If you are interested in reviewing the form to see which data fields are available, Form 50 can be found on the "Forms" tab in [SeedCert](#). Please note that limited information may be available as only certain fields are required.

If you are interested in receiving the raw data generated for your varieties after the 2023 crop inspection season, please send an [email](#) this winter to request a report.

Applications for CSGA Seed Crop Certification – Submit early!

Plant breeders are encouraged to submit an *Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification* before the Form 43 submission. Please use the application form found on the "Forms" tab in [SeedCert](#). This ensures prompt completion of invoicing, payment and variety file activities, and timely issuance of your crop certificates.

Third Party Account Information and Consent Form

The *Third Party Account Information and Consent* form is to be completed for any account that should appear as an assignee, authorized third party, or payer on the *Application for CSGA Seed Crop Certification*. The form was already distributed to those accounts that acted in these roles in 2022 but new third parties will have to complete this form to indicate their activity for the 2023 season. For more information, please see the [Third Party Application Support Document](#).

Tags Bearing Breeder Signatures

In the past, parent seed that had not been certified by the CSGA would require a tag signed by a CSGA-recognized Breeder for the seed to be considered eligible parent seed for further pedigreed seed production in Canada.

With the launch of the new *Canadian Breeder Seed Requirements*, CSGA is introducing a more formal process for the approval of Breeder seed. This process will be piloted in 2023 with the launch of the *Application for Approval of Breeder Seed* (Form 40). The form will result in the issuance of a Pedigreed Reference Number, which can be included on a Breeder's or company's personal seed tag or label to demonstrate that CSGA has already approved the parent seed as eligible for certification. Note that CSGA Breeder seed tags are still only to be used where CSGA has certified the seed by issuing a crop certificate.

For now, in 2023, CSGA will continue to approve seed with tags signed by CSGA-Recognized Plant Breeders as eligible parent seed.

Applying for Certification of New Varieties

CSGA requires that all varieties entering seed crop certification be entered into CSGA's variety database using one of the three pathways:

- The CFIA Variety Registration process
- The CSGA Form 300 process, or
- CSGA's "Enter a New Variety into Seed Crop Certification" form

The "Enter a New Variety into Seed Crop Certification" form can be found on the "Forms" tab in [SeedCert](#). This form does require a variety description in both English and French, if that variety is to be grown in Quebec. There is an associated fee of \$100 for each variety that is uploaded .

Voluntary Release of Contact Information

CSGA does not currently make public contact information for plant breeders. However, CSGA occasionally receives requests from individuals and companies looking for assistance from a CSGA-Recognized Plant Breeder.

To respond to these requests, CSGA would like to facilitate the connection between interested parties and plant breeders by making available the name, email address, or phone number of plant breeders who have consented to the release of those specific pieces of information. As such, there is a question on the *CSGA Membership Application/Renewal* form for this consent. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Brianna Chouinard](#).

Quality Management System Audits

For CSGA certification, Breeder seed must be produced in a third party audited Quality Management System. If you have not had an audit in the past four years, please plan to have an audit conducted this year. For more information, please consult page 2-2 of the new [Canadian Breeder Seed Requirements](#).

Breeder Seed Demotions

Breeder seed that is to be demoted to Foundation or Registered must obtain a new crop certificate number from CSGA. New crop certificate numbers can be requested by submitting Form 45, which can found on the "Forms" tab in [SeedCert](#). As part of this process, a representative sample must be sent directly to the CFIA:

CFIA Variety Verification Program
Seed Science Unit
3851 Fallowfield Rd, Building 210, PO Box 11300
Nepean, ON K2H 8P9

Breeder Seed for Export

Breeders are encouraged to apply to CSGA for certification of any Breeder seed intended for export to facilitate acceptance in the country of destination. Remember that CSGA Breeder seed tags are only to be used when CSGA has certified the seed by issuing a crop certificate. It leads to confusion if an importer receives a CSGA Breeder seed tag without a CSGA crop certificate number.

SeedCert – Online Portal for Crop Production Records & Certification Status

Log into [SeedCert](#) to view your account balance, crop certification status, crop production records for the current or previous year(s), or to pay online or change your communication preferences. This resource can be used to verify whether your crop has been certified or whether there are outstanding issues that need to be addressed before certification can be completed.

A password is required to access SeedCert. If you do not have a password, please use the “Reset Password” link on the login screen.

If you experience any difficulty, please contact the office by [email](#) or by phone at (613) 236-0497 ext. 8803.

If you have retired from plant breeding and do not wish to receive similar correspondence in the future from CSGA or if you have any questions or concerns, please let us know by [email](#). Also, if you are a recognized breeder and have been forwarded this email because you didn't receive one yourself, please let us know.

Management of Reference Material Seed Submitted to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

This article has been provided by the Seed Science Unit at the CFIA's Ottawa Laboratory

Reference material seed submitted by Breeders for Form 300 and Canadian Registered Varieties is retained by the Seed Science Unit at the CFIA's Ottawa Laboratory (Fallowfield). Once received, these samples are documented and subsampled for planting in reference material control plots. The remaining seed is then transferred into airtight containers and placed in long-term storage in the National Archive of Legal Reference Material.



The National Archive is a customized temperature and humidity controlled walk-in refrigerator.

During the growing season, the reference material control plots will be inspected multiple times at each growth stage and compared to their Description of Variety (DoV). These plots also serve as controls for the Domestic, Export, and Import pedigreed seed samples planted in sequence beside them.

- Examples of pedigree production tested in the Variety Verification Program:
 - Domestic: Select status crops of self-pollinated crop kinds; Foundation status crops of cross-pollinated crop kinds; and Breeder status crops demoted to Foundation or Registered status
 - Export: all export seed lots of OECD Pre-Basic, Basic, Certified, and Not Finally Certified seed lots
 - Import: seed lots multiplied abroad under Multiplication Agreements

The reference material submission will continue to be subsampled and grown as a control every season a seed sample is received for Domestic, Export, and/or Import pedigreed seed production for that variety.

Once there is only enough seed left for one final reference material control plot, a replacement sample request is sent to the Breeder to obtain more seed in order to continue the work of the Variety Verification Program. The replacement sample is planted next to the final control plot of the remaining seed from the previous reference material source in order to verify the variety's identity. Replacement sample requests may also be sent if the germination of the sample has deteriorated or if less than 2kg was originally provided.

If a variety is still available on the market, it is plausible that the Seed Science Unit will receive a sample of its pedigreed seed production and will need to request a sample of reference material from the Breeder.

For more information on the CFIA's Variety Verification Program, visit the "Variety Verification Program – Questions and Answers" page on the Government of Canada website.

Any inquiries for the Seed Science Unit can be sent to:
cfia.seedscience-sciencedessementes.acia@inspection.gc.ca