

Notice of Changes to Circular 6 (Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production ©) Effective in 2024

Following a review by the Regulatory Services Committee and consultation with members and stakeholders, the following changes to the *Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production* (Circular 6) were approved by the CSGA Board of Directors to become effective in 2024. The official complete, revised 2024 version of Circular 6 is available on the CSGA website.

Effective in 2024, the following changes are made to the *Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production* (Circular 6):

1. Text regarding **Breeder Seed Production** in the General Requirements for All Pedigreed Seed Crops is revised to simply reference the revised *Canadian Breeder Seed Requirements* rather than repeating some of the requirements. (Section 1, General Requirements for All Pedigreed Seed Crops, paragraph “8. Breeder Seed Production”)
2. The **Age of Stand for Forage and Turf Grasses and Forage Legumes** when the seed crop is established with Registered seed of a **variety with a Registered class** is clarified. (Age of Stand tables, Sections 6 & 7)
3. **Isolation Requirements and Maximum Impurity Standards for other crop kinds** are revised in **Forage and Turf Grasses and Forage Legumes** (Sections 6 & 7) as follows:
 - a. **Other crop kinds are categorized** as contaminant species where:
 - i. The other kind (contaminant) will **readily cross-pollinate (CP)** with the inspected crop;
 - ii. Seeds of the other kind (contaminant) are considered **difficult to distinguish (DTD)** in a lab test from seeds of the inspected crop; and,
 - iii. Seeds of the other kind (contaminant) are considered **difficult to separate (DTS)** from seeds of the inspected crop.
 - b. **Contaminant tables have been added** to identify which species will CP, are DTD or are DTS.
 - c. **Where the other kind will CP or is DTD, the isolation requirements and maximum impurity standards** are revised as follows:
 - i. Where the other kind will readily **CP**, a greater **isolation** distance (e.g., 50 m) is required to the other kind to maintain varietal purity (i.e., equivalent to the isolation required for other varieties of the same kind).
 - ii. Where the other kind is **DTD only** (the contaminant will not readily CP), a smaller **isolation** distance is required to the other kind to maintain mechanical purity but is **reduced from 3 meters to 2 meters** (like Section 2 & 3 crops).

- iii. The **maximum impurity standard (MIS)** for other kinds does not change in terms of the number of plants permitted (e.g., 1 plant/10m²) but now only other kinds that CP or are DTD will be counted and contribute towards the maximum impurity standard (i.e., the combined total number of plants that either CP, are DTD, or both, must not exceed the standard). Plants of species that are only considered **DTS will no longer be counted or contribute towards the MIS*** for other kinds.
 - d. Where the other kind is **DTS only** (does not readily CP and is not DTD), **isolation** is not required to the other kind, and **there is no maximum impurity standard***. Plants of the other kind will be **reported by frequency** in the field and will **not be a factor in the seed crop certification decision**.
4. The definition of 'Variety Maintainer' is revised to be consistent with the use of that terminology by other international seed certifying bodies including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Seed Schemes as the individual or organization responsible for maintenance of a variety rather than an CSGA-Accredited Plot Grower producing Breeder seed. (Glossary of Terms)

*Fields of Forage and Turf Grasses and Forage Legumes species found in Sections 6 & 7 of Circular 6 will still be declined by the CSGA if the authorized inspector reports the general weed condition of a pedigreed seed crop as "very weedy". The very weedy rating is used when weeds or other crops cover the inspected crop preventing the inspector from completing the required six (6) counts to determine varietal purity. So, for example, although there is no longer a maximum impurity standard for the presence of wheatgrass in a brome grass seed crop, the brome grass could still be declined due to the presence of wheatgrass if the wheatgrass (or any weed or other crop) covers the brome grass crop.