

Fall 2026 Standards Consultation

Previous Land Use Requirements for Cereal and Small Grain Seed Crops

Current status: Open

This consultation period opened on October 13, 2026, and will close at 5 p.m. ET on February 1, 2027.

About the Consultation

Focus of Consultation:

- Proposed revisions to the previous land use requirements for:
 - Pedigreed cereal and small grain seed crops (barley, buckwheat, canary seed, durum, flax, oat, rye, triticale and wheat)
 - Select, Foundation, Registered and Certified status seed crops

Circular 6 Sections Being Revised:

- The proposed revisions would amend the following sections of the [Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production](#) (Circular 6)
 - Section 2
 - Parts of Section 12
 - General Requirements for Plot Production and Probation Plot Production

Purpose of the Consultation

The purpose of this consultation is to seek stakeholder feedback on **proposed revisions to the previous land use requirements for all classes of pedigreed cereal and small grain seed crops** (Select, Foundation, Registered and Certified), including barley, buckwheat, canary seed, durum, flax, oat, rye, triticale and wheat.

Reasons for the Review

The proposed revisions are intended to:

- **Improve clarity and reduce complexity** by simplifying previous land use requirements and supporting consistent interpretation.
- **Reflect modern production practices**, including cover crops, companion crops and double cropping.
- **Improve efficiency** for seed growers, Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Services (ASCIS), the Canadian Seed Growers' Association (CSGA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
- **Improve alignment with international approaches** where appropriate while maintaining the integrity of Canada's pedigreed seed crop production system.

Background and Considerations

CSGA's previous land use requirements are an important component of the pedigreed seed crop production system and are intended to minimize the risk of varietal purity contamination from volunteer plants or unintended carryover of seed from previous crops. The requirements currently vary by crop kind and seed class, reflecting differences in crop biology, production practices and historical approaches to managing risk.

As production practices evolve and new approaches to crop management are adopted, CSGA is reviewing whether the current requirements continue to provide the appropriate balance between maintaining varietal purity, supporting efficient certification, and providing growers with practical flexibility.

Simplifying and Clarifying Requirements

The current requirements primarily identify land uses that are not eligible for pedigreed seed crop production. While this approach addresses a wide range of risk scenarios, differences among crop kinds, seed classes and "break crop" provisions can make the requirements difficult to interpret.

Simplifying and clarifying the requirements could improve understanding, support consistent application and reduce unintended demotions or declines resulting from misinterpretation.

Supporting Modern Production Practices

Agricultural production practices continue to evolve, including the use of cover crops, companion crops, intercropping and double cropping. The current requirements were developed primarily around traditional single-season crop production and may not fully reflect these newer management practices.

Consideration is being given to how previous land use requirements can better address situations where seed is introduced into the soil through planting activities, even when a crop is not harvested or does not produce seed. This includes practices such as cover cropping and other scenarios where planted seed may present a potential varietal purity risk for a subsequent pedigreed seed crop.

Administrative Considerations

Previous land use requirements require growers to maintain detailed records and provide land use information to support certification decisions. CSGA, the CFIA and ASCIS also dedicate significant resources to reviewing information, providing guidance and ensuring consistent application. Modernization provides an opportunity to improve efficiency while maintaining the integrity of the certification system.

Alignment with International Requirements

CSGA is also considering opportunities to better align Canadian previous land use requirements with approaches used by other seed certification agencies and international trading partners. Many jurisdictions apply more consistent requirements across cereal and small grain crops and seed classes, while Circular 6 requirements currently include numerous crop-specific and class-specific differences.

Greater alignment, where appropriate, could simplify requirements for growers, support consistency with international practices, and help maintain the competitiveness of Canadian pedigreed seed crop production.

Review Process and Progress to Date

The review of previous land use requirements has been led by CSGA's Cereal Working Group (CWG), a technical working group that reports to the Regulatory Services Committee (RSC). The CWG includes representatives from across the pedigreed seed sector, including seed growers, seed companies, plant breeders, seed analysts and licensed seed crop inspectors. Since fall 2024, the CWG has reviewed the current requirements, considered supporting data and international approaches, and developed the proposed revisions for consideration by the RSC. Following stakeholder consultation, the RSC will review the feedback received and make recommendations to the CSGA Board of Directors.

Guiding Principles

The proposed revisions were drafted to:

- Use time-based terminology (e.g., "previous X months").
- Consider both seed planted and crops produced.
- Clearly identify eligible and ineligible land uses.

Proposed Revisions

Proposed Crop-Specific Previous Land Use Requirements

The proposed previous land use requirements are presented separately for each crop kind. Stakeholders should review the requirements for the crop(s) most relevant to their production, operations or area of expertise.

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Barley | • Oat |
| • Buckwheat | • Rye |
| • Canary seed | • Triticale |
| • Durum | • Wheat |
| • Flax | |

Proposed Revisions to General Requirements

To improve clarity and consistency, common previous land use requirements for Select plot production would be moved to the General Requirements for Plot Production and the General Requirements for Probation Plot Production, rather than being repeated within each crop-specific requirement.

The proposed changes would:

- clearly establish that a higher pedigreed status or class of the same variety cannot be produced where a lower status or class of that variety was produced on the land in the previous year; and
- confirm that Breeder or Select seed of the same variety may be sown in consecutive years on the same land and remain eligible for Select status.

The proposed text is as follows:

2. Land Use Requirements

- (1) 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 consecutive years on the same land and the crop will be eligible for Select status.

Who Should Participate?

This consultation will be of interest to those involved in the seed sector value chain, including but not limited to:

- Seed growers
- Crop certificate assignees and seed companies contracting pedigreed seed crop production
- Registered seed establishments that process pedigreed seed of cereals and small grains
- Plant breeders
- Seed analysts

- Authorized seed crop inspection services and licensed seed crop inspectors
- Agriculture organizations, including councils, associations, and commissions with an interest in cereal and small grain crops

CSGA also welcomes feedback from the broader Canadian agriculture sector, including the grain industry, government, and other interested organizations or individuals.

How to Participate

Stakeholders are invited to complete a short [10-minute survey](#) to provide feedback on the proposal described above.

Written comments may also be submitted by email to [Mike Scheffel](#) and [Gail Harris](#) with the subject line: "Previous Land Use Requirements for Cereal and Small Grain Seed Crops Consultation". The survey will remain open until **5:00 pm ET, February 1, 2027**.

Consultation Activities

CSGA will inform stakeholders about the consultation through:

- this webpage,
- announcements in the *Seed Scoop* newsletter, and
- direct outreach to key stakeholders.

Upon request, CSGA staff will meet with stakeholders and interested parties.

Next steps

Feedback received through the survey and written submissions will be considered in finalizing the proposed revisions. CSGA will provide a report to the Regulatory Services Committee in late March 2027.

The RSC will then make recommendations to the CSGA Board of Directors regarding next steps.

Related Information

- [Canadian Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production](#)
- [Schedule I](#) (Grade Tables) to the [Seeds Regulations](#)
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency Seed Program Documents
 - [Specific work instructions \(SWI 142.1.1\): Pedigreed seed crop inspection](#)
 - [Appendix VI Other crop kinds to report in counts](#)
 - [Specific work instructions \(SWI 142.1.2-2\): Cereals and minor grains seed crop inspection procedures](#)

We also invite stakeholders to learn more about [CSGA's standard development process](#) and [Standards Development Policy framework](#).

Contact Us

- **Mike Scheffel**, Managing Director, Policy and Standards: mscheffel@seedgrowers.ca
- **Gail Harris**, Standards Manager: gharris@seedgrowers.ca