



March 2026

Information for Seed Growers

New messages for 2026

Upcoming changes to CFIA Inspection Billing for 2026

Thank you for your continued commitment to producing high-quality pedigreed seed. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve service transparency and align fees more closely with actual inspection needs, the CFIA is updating their billing approach for inspections conducted by CFIA inspectors beginning in the 2026 crop year.

Starting in 2026, pedigreed seed crop inspections conducted by the CFIA will be billed, after the completion of the inspection, based on the **actual hours required to complete each field inspection**, charged at an hourly rate. The hourly rate will not be charged for travel time, only for time preparing for, conducting and reporting inspections. This will replace the current formula that considers crop type, acreage, and number of inspections and is billed at the time of application.

This change is designed to provide clearer, more predictable alignment between the work performed and the fees assessed. Additional details, including the hourly rate and invoicing timelines, will be shared in advance of the 2026 season.

We appreciate your cooperation as we make this transition and remain committed to supporting your success in pedigreed seed production. Questions about the billing change for 2026 can be sent to CFIA Seed Section at SeedSemence@inspection.gc.ca

General messages

Breeder plots

CFIA can be selected as the inspection service **only** if the plots are not able to be inspected under the Breeder program and there are no ASCIS available to conduct the inspection.

Sampling during seed crop inspections

Licensed seed crop inspectors must submit a plant sample to the CFIA when required as part of the inspection procedures. For example, samples are required to verify a description of variety (DOV) when field observations differ from the DOV, or if the inspector is unsure whether a plant is a variant, off-type or normal plant. These samples are essential to ensure the integrity of the certification process.



Plot Production Samples

Please respect the quantity and quality requirements as well as the deadline sample submission date . If the samples are not received by the Feb 15th deadline, there is a risk that the sample may not be tested that year and any potential issues may not be identified.

Authorized Seed Crop Inspections Services (ASCIS)

ASCIS may request access to fields for the purposes of training Licensed Seed Crop Inspectors (LSCI). Practical training of LSCI for seed crops of section 2 and 3 of Circular 6 will be delivered by ASCIS in 2026.

GPS coordinates

If growers are using GPS coordinates, the data for the entry of the field AND the center of the field will both be required.

Maps are required for all fields

It must include **easily recognizable landmarks**, adjacent crops and buildings, distance measurements, legal land descriptions and/or legal physical addresses. Plots, staked plots and plots within seed crop fields require detailed maps. **CFIA will not complete seed crop inspection when field maps are not available in CSGA's SeedCert.**

Seed Growers are asked to submit applications by the CSGA deadline

Inspection requests received after the deadline may cause scheduling challenges for service providers. Roguing of seed fields and plots is expected to be completed before the time of inspection.

Seed Tags

When required by CSGA, the seed grower is responsible to submit copies of pedigreed seed tags of the parent seed planted with their application to CSGA.

Pesticide Use must be communicated

Please provide your seed crop inspector with information about pesticide application that has occurred prior to inspections.

CFIA Oversight of Seed Crop Inspection

CFIA will be check inspecting a percentage of all fields inspected by Licenced Seed Crop Inspectors (LSCI). Therefore, you may see a CFIA official in your seed field before or after an inspection by a LSCI. If non-conformance(s) are assessed by the CFIA Official inspector, the ASCIS may be asked to re-inspect the field and submit a modified Report of Seed Crop inspection to the CSGA, which the seed grower will receive via SeedCert.



CFIA availability for seed crop inspection:

- Seed crops **other than** CSGA Circular 6 section 2, 3 and 8 crop types (cereals, pulses and certified hybrid corn);
- Select and Foundation plots of all crop kinds;
- Seed crops of CSGA Circular 6 section 2, 3 and 8 crop types only in the rare event that a grower has been refused by all ASCIS in their Region and if CFIA resources permit;
- Hybrid Cereal crops and feminised hemp;
- Seed destined for marketing in the EU as Basic or Pre-Basic seed; and
- Crop types in Circular 6 for which seed crop inspection training has not been provided to LSCI.

How to contact us or receive notifications

Sign up for our [notification service](#) to receive updates on changes in the seed program.

For more information, [contact your local CFIA office](#) or the CFIA's Seed Section at SeedSemence@inspection.gc.ca

Seed growers seeking information on whether their crop meets CSGA requirements must either check the status of their crops through [SeedCert](#) or [contact CSGA](#) directly.