Our vision: To excel as a science-based regulator, trusted and respected by Canadians and the international community.

Our mission: Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada’s people, environment and economy.

Seed Section Update – Forage and Turf Committee

Canadian Seed Trade Association Annual Meeting
July 14, 2014
Overview

• Regulatory update
  - *Weed Seeds Order* (WSO) Review
  - Crop Placement – Forages and Oilseed Soybeans
  - *Seeds Regulations* and Grade Tables modernization

• Variety Verification

• Alternative Service Delivery of Seed Crop Inspection

• Lawn Mixtures
  - Importing/Exporting
  - Composition
  - Naming
  - Grading
  - Labelling
**Weed Seeds Order Review: Rationale for Change**

The WSO is being revised for several reasons:

- limit introduction of new weedy species via the seed pathway;
- protect Canada’s export markets from future weed problems;
- clarify the definitions of WSO classes (outside regulations);
- review the classifications of all species currently listed in the WSO;
- some weeds are now considered crops;
- WSO must continue to address the threat of weeds and invasive plants in both the agricultural and non-agricultural marketplace (wildflower, wildlife grazing and land reclamation mixtures).
WSO Review: Consultations

- Canadian Seed Institute (CSI) workshops:
  - October 2008
  - March 2009

- Initial Stakeholder Consultation

- Secondary Consultation
  - June 17, 2011 and September 15, 2011.

- Additional / Final Consultation
  - *Canada Gazette* Part I
  - Date yet to be determined.
WSO Proposed Revisions: Primary Noxious Weed seed standards - all Tables

• The CFIA proposes to apply Class 2 Primary Noxious Weed seeds standards to all Grade Tables.

• Currently, Primary Noxious Weed seed standards do not apply to:
  ▪ Table XIV (Lawn or turf mixtures of two or more kinds of seeds); and
  ▪ Table XV (Ground cover mixtures composed of seed of two or more kinds other than cereal mixtures, forage mixtures, and lawn or turf mixtures).

• Primary Noxious species are too harmful to be permitted in lawn, turf, and ground cover mixtures. For example, previously Prohibited Noxious Weed species (Leafy spurge, Jimsonweed, Johnsongrass).

• Currently, seed lots of a single species of lawn, turf and ground cover species must meet Primary Noxious Weed seed restrictions.
### WSO Proposed Revisions: Species Placement

- **11 species are proposed to move from Class 1 Prohibited Noxious to Class 2 Primary Noxious:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Russian knapweed</th>
<th>Jimsonweed</th>
<th>Lens-pod hoary cress</th>
<th>Horse Nettle (Ball Nettle)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nodding thistle</td>
<td>Leafy Spurge</td>
<td>Heart-pod hoary cress</td>
<td>Johnson grass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poison hemlock</td>
<td>Globe-pod hoary cress</td>
<td>Red bartsia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **9 species are proposed to move from Class 2 Primary Noxious to Class 3 Secondary Noxious:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yellow rocket (or winter cress)</th>
<th>False baby’s breath</th>
<th>Warty bedstraw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ox-eye daisy</td>
<td>False cleavers</td>
<td>White cockle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild mustard</td>
<td>Cleavers</td>
<td>Bladder campion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
 additive to Class 1 | Additions to Class 2 | Additions to Class 3 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slender foxtail <em>(Black grass)</em></td>
<td>Tall water-hemp</td>
<td>Field brome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow bluestem</td>
<td>Cow parsley</td>
<td>Japanese brome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver beardgrass</td>
<td>Hoary alyssum</td>
<td>Cheat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iberian starthistle *</td>
<td>Spiny plumeless thistle</td>
<td>Downy brome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squarrose knapweed</td>
<td>Long-spined sandbur</td>
<td>Wild parsnip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paterson’s curse *</td>
<td>Rush skeletonweed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British yellowhead</td>
<td>Goat’s-rue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring millet grass</td>
<td>False baby’s breath</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallis grass *</td>
<td>Warty bedstraw</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African-rue</td>
<td>Giant hogweed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devil’s-tail tearthumb *</td>
<td>Hogweed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kudzu</td>
<td>Dalmatian toadflax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South African ragwort *</td>
<td>Broomleaf toadflax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar ragwort *</td>
<td>Striped toadflax</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silverleaf nightshade *</td>
<td>Apple of Peru</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medusahead rye</td>
<td>Puncture vine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian bean-caper *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Denotes species regulated as pests in Canada under the Plant Protection Act and D-12-01: Phytosanitary requirements to prevent the introduction of plants regulated as pests in Canada.
WSO: Overall Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>WSO, 2005 # of species</th>
<th>Proposed WSO # of species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class 1 Prohibited Noxious</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 2 Primary Noxious</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 3 Secondary Noxious</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 4 Secondary Noxious</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class 5 Noxious</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Class 2 Primary Noxious Weed seeds standards would apply to all Grade Tables.
WSO: Next Steps

- The regulatory change process has been initiated.

- Stakeholder feedback will be reviewed and considered during development of the Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement leading to pre-publication in *Canada Gazette*, Part I for a comment period.

- Revisions to the *Weed Seeds Order* would come into effect following publication in *Canada Gazette*, Part II, or upon a “coming into force” date published in *Canada Gazette*, Part II.
The CFIA’s Seed Science and Technology Section (SSTS) has a research project underway to investigate the use of Lucid Central webpage for the development of seed ID tools which include high resolution photos.
WSO: Implementation Tools (2 of 2)

- Seed ID factsheets for most of the proposed new Prohibited Noxious Weed species have been posted to the CFIA’s website.

- Continued communication with stakeholders encouraging them to specify “freedom from” these new proposed Prohibited Noxious Weed species in purchase contracts.
Updates to Schedule I to the Seeds Regulations – The Grade Tables

- The Seed Section will conduct a thorough review of the *Seeds Regulations*, including the Grade Tables (Schedule I), and extensive consultation with stakeholders over the next few years.

- Bill C-18, the *Agricultural Growth Act* (in committee June, 2014) contains provisions for incorporation by reference of external standards established by recognized parties. This could be applied to the Grade Tables.

- The initiative to modernize the *Seeds Regulations* is on the forward agenda for the CFIA’s Regulatory, Legislative and Economic Affairs Division for completion in 2020.
Crop Placement Regulatory Amendments

• Amendments to the *Seeds Regulations* that transferred oilseed soybeans and all forage crop kinds from Part I to Part III of Schedule III were approved on May 15, 2014 and published in *Canada Gazette*, Part II on June 4, 2014.

• The amendments provide a more efficient approval process and support more timely access to innovative varieties that are in global demand.

• Recommendation from a recommending committee is no longer required for the registration of Oilseed Soybean and Forage crop varieties now in Part III, since the testing and merit requirements are removed.

• The changes also removed the option to suspend the registration of a variety (vs cancel), which was an administrative adjustment.
Variety Verification: Sampling and Testing

• Each year, the CFIA assesses the varietal purity and varietal identity of approximately 2,000 samples of seed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Canadian seed certification system.

• In 2013/14, approximately 500 of these samples were requested directly by the CFIA from seed growers and seed crop assignees.

• The response rate was encouraging and Seed Section intends to repeat this procedure in the fall of 2014 to request samples of 2014 crops for testing in the 2015 growing season.
Variety Verification – Notifications to Growers

• In 2013, Seed Section notified growers if varietal purity or varietal identity issues were observed. (approximately 140 plots out of 2000 plots in 2013 testing of 2012 seed lots)

• Critical varietal purity and varietal identity issues were notified to growers immediately during the 2013 growing season, so that growers could make production decisions on seed crops grown from the implicated 2012 seed lots.

• In the fall, growers were notified if the number of off-types observed in their sample was:
  ▪ greater than the number permitted by the standard, but met the standard when a statistical tolerance was applied (Met with Tolerance); or
  ▪ greater than the number permitted by the standard even when the tolerance was applied (Out of Tolerance).

• If the number of off-types observed was not higher than the number permitted by the standard no notification was sent.
2014 Seed Crop Inspection

• Starting in 2014 seed crop inspection will be mostly delivered by private inspectors.
  ▪ Transition to alternative service delivery (ASD) is one of the Government of Canada’s Budget 2012 initiatives.

• A sufficient number of private inspectors have been licensed.

• The CFIA will continue to be responsible for seed certification in Canada and is involved in activities such as licensing, oversight, development of training material, and a limited amount of residual direct seed crop inspection.

• Eventually allow industry and market forces to lead the future evolution of the model.
Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) – Cereals and Pulses

• Theory and practical training sessions in 2013 and 2014 have been limited to crop kinds of Cereals and Pulses listed in Sections 2 and 3 of the CSGA’s Circular 6.

• In 2013 and 2014 private individuals who have taken the training have been, or will be, evaluated (theory and practical) by the CFIA on their competence to inspect pedigreed seed crops of Cereals and Pulses.

• Individuals who passed the evaluations have been licensed to inspect Foundation, Registered and Certified status seed crops of Cereals and Pulses in 2014.

• For 2014, CFIA inspectors will be available to inspect the remaining crop kinds and seed crops of higher generation seed crops for which training has not yet been offered.
Alternative Service Delivery (ASD): Forages

• Some LSCI are already experienced seed crop inspectors who previously worked for the CFIA and inspected other crop types including Forage species.

• These individuals were licensed in 2014 and the scope of the licence will permit them to inspect a broader list of crop kinds and pedigreed status crops in the 2014 season.

• Training for other crop types, including Forages, hybrid canola, and seed crops of other pedigreed status (Select, Breeder, plots) will gradually be introduced.
  - Likely starting in 2015
  - Allows time for new LSCI to gain experience in crop inspection
Lawn and Turf Seed Mixtures

- Importing
- Exporting
- Composition
- Grading
- Labelling
Lawn and Turf Mixtures: Importing

- Lawn mixtures must meet the same import requirements as any other seed.
  - must meet minimum standards for the Grade Table that applies (either single species or mixtures)
  - must be free of prohibited noxious weed seeds
  - must be graded and labelled according to the *Seeds Regulations* at the time of sale in Canada.
Lawn and Turf Mixtures: Exporting

- The same requirements as for other exported seed

- Must meet the seed certification and phytosanitary requirements of the importing foreign country

- Certified No. 1 and No. 2 Lawn and Turf Mixtures may be exported with official Canadian tags (AOSCA)

- OECD recognizes Herbage Mixtures which includes mixtures of lawn seed and turf seed; can be certified pursuant to the OECD Seed Schemes
Lawn and Turf Mixtures: Composition

- May be composed of any species listed in Table XIV Part II, and/or any other kind of grass not listed in Schedule I, if those kinds are listed on the label.

- If described on the label as suitable for shady places must contain not less than 40% by weight, singly or combined, of Chewing’s Fescue, Creeping Red Fescue or Rough Bluegrass seed. (subsection 7(10))

- Redtop, Crested Wheatgrass, Timothy (dwarf-type), Annual Ryegrass may make up no more than 30% by weight singly or 40% combined of the total mixture. (Table XIV)

- If the seed is a Ground Cover Mixture, the label must not imply that it is suitable for use on home lawns (subsection 29(1))
Lawn and Turf Mixtures: Naming

• The component varieties in Lawn and Turf mixtures may be named on the label and in advertising.

• For seed of crop kinds listed in Schedule II, the seed must be of pedigreed status and the mixture made by an Approved Conditioner in order to be named as to variety.
Lawn and Turf Mixtures: Grading

- Must meet the standards in Table XIV
- Recommended (but not required) that the components are graded prior to mixing
- The seed should be tested for purity and germination prior to treating.
- Each component of the mixture must meet the germination standard individually (not the mixture as a whole)
- Must be free of Prohibited Noxious Weed seeds
- Canada Certified No.1 or No. 2 Lawn Mixture grade name may only be applied if all components are of pedigreed status.
TABLE XIV - Part I - Applicable to: Lawn or turf mixtures of two or more kinds of seeds listed in Part II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Name</th>
<th>Noxious Weeds Excluding Couch grass</th>
<th>Couch grass</th>
<th>Total Weeds</th>
<th>White Clover</th>
<th>Brome grass, Orchard grass &amp; Tall Fescue</th>
<th>Other Crops</th>
<th>Maximum % Ergot Bodies</th>
<th>Minimum % Pure Seed By Weight</th>
<th>Minimum % Germination of Each Component</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Canada Certified No. 1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn Mixture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Canada Certified No. 2</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawn Mixture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Canada No. 1 Lawn Mixture</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Canada No. 2 Lawn Mixture</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- A Canada Certified No. 1 Lawn Mixture or a Canada Certified No. 2 Lawn Mixture may contain more than one variety of a kind or species. (7(1)(h))

- Notwithstanding Table XIV to Schedule I, all mixtures described on a label to be suitable for shady places shall contain not less than 40 % by weight, singly or combined, of Chewing’s fescue, creeping red fescue or rough bluegrass seed. (7(10))
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Group B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kentucky bluegrass, creeping red fescue, Chewing’s fescue, hard fescue, colonial bentgrass, creeping bentgrass, velvet bentgrass, rough bluegrass, Canada bluegrass, sheep fescue, turf-type tall fescue varieties and turf-type perennial ryegrass varieties</td>
<td>Redtop, crested wheatgrass, timothy (dwarf-type) and annual ryegrass provided none of those species constitutes more than 30% by weight singly and no more than 40% by weight combined of the total mixture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>All other kinds of grass not listed in this Schedule, if those kinds are indicated on the label</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lawn Mixtures: Labelling (1 of 2) (Section 28, Seeds Regulations)

- Label must indicate:
  - the name and address of seller, packager or labeller;
  - the name of the grade of the seed;
  - if the package contains more than 5 kg of seed, the name of each kind or species, and of each variety, if applicable, that constitutes:
    - 5% or more of the weight of the mixture
    - for bentgrasses - 3% or more by weight of the mixture
    - for white clover - 2% or more by weight of the mixture
• A component that is of pedigreed status may be indicated as such on the label providing that:
  ▪ it meets the standards for that pedigreed status; and
  ▪ the mixing was done by an Approved Conditioner.

• If the name of any kind, species or variety in the mixture is:
  ▪ emphasized on the label to the exclusion of other components, or
  ▪ indicated in a manner to emphasize that component,

• then the percentage by weight of that component must be stated on the label in the same size and color and type as the name.
Lawn and Turf Mixtures – Additional Information

- Lawn and Turf Mixtures (Table XIV) are distinctly different from Ground Cover Mixtures (Table XV) with different grading, labelling and composition standards.

See the CFIA Website for more information:

- ABCs of Seed Importation
- Standards and Labelling for Seed Mixtures
- Sampling and Testing Requirements for Seed Imported into or Sold in Canada
Contact information:
Seed Section
Field Crops and Inputs Division
Plant Health and Biosafety Directorate
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive, Ottawa ON K1A 0Y9

email: SeedSemence@inspection.gc.ca