



**CSTA Update**  
**Ontario Forage Committee**  
**October, 2014**

50 of CSTA's 130 member companies have a direct interest in forage and turf seed research, breeding, production, marketing and trade. 5 of CSTA's 16 Board members are from these companies. Forage and Turf issues are a major occupation for CSTA. Following is a very brief update of some of the timely issues and projects.

**Variety Registration** – Almost three years after CSTA first developed the draft rationale for the placement of forages in Part III of the Variety Registration system, the regulations officially placing all forage crop species, kinds and types were published in June. CFIA has been processing applications for Part III registrations for over a month. The hope is that there will be a good number of new registrations of forage varieties for Canadian producers.

**Weed Seeds Order** – After two years, regulations to amend the Weed Seeds Order moved back up on the CFIA priority list. The plan is for the regulatory package to be published in the Canada Gazette late fall or early winter. Some of the changes are necessary to align the Weed Seeds Order with the Invasive Plants regulations. For example Slender Foxtail is on the list of regulated pests but not in the Weed Seeds Order so seed analysts and others who find it in seed lots may not be totally aware that it must be reported. Some of the changes are not supported by CSTA. For example, CSTA does not support the proposed classification of Downy Brome as secondary noxious, and CSTA does not support the extension of the primary noxious class to Grade tables 14 (lawn grass mixtures) and 15 (ground cover mixtures).

**Importing Seed** – Canadian importers of forage and turf seed face more border related issues than most of the other crop kinds with which CSTA works. Resolving issues and ensuring that seed can come into Canada is a regular service that CSTA provides to its members. Recently a decision was made at the CFIA, as part of its attempts to be less prescriptive, which is actually difficult for some members. CFIA is not planning to issue directives for the import of seed as it relates to regulated pests. This means that importers and analysts must be aware of the Invasive Species legislation; regulated pest lists and the additions and changes to those lists, rather than referring to a CFIA directive. CSTA is working with CFIA to produce a fact sheet on importing seed that we can distribute to our members. We hope to present it to our Forage and Turf Committee during its November meeting.

**New Fact Sheet for Buyers of Forage and Turf Seed** – at the request of some of our members, and working with the CFIA, CSTA produced a new fact sheet. Titled "It's the Law" The fact sheet is meant to clarify regulatory requirements for purchasers of forage and grass seed. It is designed to help purchasers understand regulatory requirements around variety registration and the use of variety names. It can be found on the CSTA website [in the Library](#).

**Alternate Service Delivery** – Alternate Service Delivery of seed crop inspection began April 1, 2014. While the CFIA was only charged with privatizing inspections of crops in sections 2 and 3 of CSGA's Circular 6 (pulses and cereals), some of the Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Services include former CFIA inspectors who are licensed to inspect other crop kinds, including forages. It appears that a number of companies are choosing ASD for forage crop inspections. CSTA continues to push for CFIA to train inspectors for forages in 2014.

**Forge Seed Sales Statistics** – Statistics Canada annually surveys forage seed companies to obtain data on sales of forage seed. The survey was designed by AAFC and CSTA and began in 2008. CSTA did a survey of its forage seed members after the 2013 results were released. There was a very poor response, but the members that did respond indicated that a survey is important, but that this one can be substantially improved. CSTA hopes to make suggestions to Statistics Canada and will be asking Forage seed company members for input before fall.

**CSTA Forage and Turf Committee** – will meet November 7 in Kansas City at the time of the Western Seed Association meeting. The agenda for the meeting is posted on CSTA's website <http://cdnseed.org/forage-and-turf-november-2014/>

**Canadian Forage Seed Project** – Under a contract with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, CSTA manages 12 forage varieties developed by AAFC. CSTA, in turn, contracts with "managing companies" to supply foundation seed of each variety. CSTA and AAFC have, however proposed to CFIA two de-register two varieties: Mayak Russian Wildrye and Yukon Sweet Clover, due to a lack of interest in managing the varieties and an absence of demand for the crops over many years. Mayak is proposed for de-registration August 1, 2015 and Yukon August 1, 2016. CSTA has negotiated new contracts with Managing Companies for the 10 remaining varieties in the Canadian Forage Seed Project. The 10 varieties are now held across 8 different companies. Given the changes in AAFC staffing, and the provision in the contract between CSTA and AAFC, we are exploring options for the transfer of maintenance of Breeder Seed to interested private companies.

**ISF Forage and Turf Section** – Darrell Dziver of BrettYoung chairs the Forage and Turf Section of the International Seed Federation. In addition to maintaining international statistics for the trade of forage and turf seed, and promoting natural grass with the International Football Association (FIFA); this section deals with detailed international issues affecting the trade of forage and turf seed including:

- Electronic certification and use of labels in the OECD Seed Schemes
- Evaluation of test methods and electronic certification at the International Seed Testing Association
- Bio molecular techniques for Distinctness, Uniformity and Stability at UPOV