



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Flax Council of Canada Urges Growers to Test Planting Seed**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba** --- The Flax Council of Canada (FCC) today is encouraging growers to ensure that all planting seed has been tested for the presence of Triffid prior to seeding. Continued testing at all levels of the value chain is essential to reduce the frequency and severity of Triffid events found in the Canadian flax crop to the point where the risk to exporters and processors no longer warrants testing at the farm level.

Considerable progress has been made since the implementation of the Farm Stewardship Program to reduce both the frequency of samples testing positive for Triffid and the levels of Triffid present in those samples. This success can be attributed to the high level of cooperation achieved from all participants in the flax value chain. Flax growers have played a major role in this success by being diligent in ensuring that their planting seed has tested negative prior to seeding and that their production has been tested prior to delivery. Testing of seed reduces the risk of contaminated seed being planted. Testing of production prior to delivery allows flax containing Triffid to be diverted to markets where a low level presence of Triffid is acceptable.

The best option for producers remains the planting of certified seed that has been tested for Triffid and shown to be negative. However, the Farm Stewardship Program allows producers to use their own farm-saved (non-pedigreed) seed for planting, provided it first undergoes the same intense sampling and testing procedures as those used for certified seed being tested for Triffid. (See [Farm Stewardship Procedures for Farm Saved Planting Seed in 2011](#).)

There is no threshold level of Triffid acceptable for planting seed. Only planting seed that has been tested negative is to be used for seeding purposes for 2011. The list of approved labs for Triffid testing for "Farm Saved Planting Seed" is the same as for the Certified Seed Testing Program. Laboratory submission forms for this program are available at [2011 Farm Stewardship Procedures - Labs](#).

As of January 1, 2011, approved labs are providing producers with a discount of 50% of the regular cost of testing **pedigreed and farm-saved seed**, up to a maximum of \$100 per sample. The labs are reimbursed by the Flax Council, using funds provided by the Federal Government under the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP).

Canada's single largest market for flax is the European Union (EU) and to meet its stringent requirements it is critical that only seed tested negative for Triffid is planted. Markets for seed testing positive for Triffid may be limited and, as a result, some companies may not be able to accept positive tested flax.

At the time of delivery, in order for their flax to enter the EU export pipeline, growers will be required to provide two certificates of laboratory analysis from an approved laboratory, one that verifies the planting seed tested negative and another that verifies that the production being delivered tested negative.

In addition to being an important step in the marketing of flaxseed to the European marketplace, the testing of planting seed is vital to the process of reducing the amount of Triffid present in the Canadian flax crop.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:** William Hill, President - Flax Council of Canada - Ph: (204) 982-2115 - [flax@flaxcouncil.ca](mailto:flax@flaxcouncil.ca)



## **Farm Stewardship Procedures for Farm Saved Planting Seed in 2011**

The best option for producers to minimize risk of growing flax contaminated with Triffid remains the planting of certified seed that has been tested for Triffid and shown to be negative. However, because some certified seed has shown positive with a low level presence of Triffid, a second option is now available.

This option allows producers to use their own non-pedigreed seed for planting provided it first undergoes the same intense sampling and testing procedures used for certified seed being tested for Triffid.

To minimize grower's potential risks and costs associated with using farm saved seed, growers are encouraged to obtain and test a representative sample of the seed they intend to use for planting the 2011 flax crop. If growers have not already done so, it is strongly recommended that growers submit a 2 kg hand screened sample to an FCC recognized laboratory for a 1x60 g seed test. Completing this test prior to cleaning may save the grower the cost of unnecessarily cleaning contaminated seed. This test is at the grower's option. It is not a replacement for the 4x60 g test outlined below in the procedures.

**ANY seed testing positive for Triffid must not be cleaned or planted.** Growers with a positive result will be required to purchase certified flax seed.

To limit cross contamination, commercial cleaners may require an initial test prior to cleaning a flax seed lot.

### **Procedures for testing Farm Saved Seed:**

- To ensure the highest confidence in the testing procedures, a sample of seed must be drawn across the entire lot of seed. This may be done a number of ways; however the best and most preferred method is to sample directly from a clean seed stream. This includes but is not limited to sampling as the clean seed is:
  - *coming off the cleaners,*
  - *being loaded into a truck,*
  - *being transferred from the truck into a seed bin on farm.*
- A minimum 4 subsamples per 1 metric tonne (1 sample per 10 bu) must be drawn and mixed thoroughly.
  - *e.g. a 5 mt lot will require 20 subsamples*
- A lot may not be any larger than 20 mt.
- A representative 2 kg sample is to be submitted to a lab on the FCC's list of approved testing labs for Triffid testing (4x60 g).
- **ONLY SEED TESTING NEGATIVE WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR PLANTING.**
- At harvest or delivery of the 2011 crop, the grower will be asked to provide a certificate of laboratory analysis that verifies the planting seed tested negative.

## 2011 Farm Stewardship Procedures - Labs

As of January 1, 2011, approved labs are providing producers with a discount of 50% of the regular cost of testing **pedigreed and farm-saved seed**, up to a maximum of \$100 per sample. The labs are reimbursed by the Flax Council, using funds provided by the Federal Government under the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP).

**IMPORTANT- Some flax buyers will only be accepting test results from certain labs.**

The following companies will only accept results from labs as listed below. This list may be modified. Please check for updates.

### **Cargill Limited**

- DNA LandMarks Inc.
- Eurofins GeneScan, Inc.
- Quantum Biosciences Inc.

### **Richardson International Ltd./ Pioneer**

- Eurofins GeneScan Inc.
- Quantum Biosciences Inc.

### **Parrish & Heimbecker Limited**

- Quantum Biosciences Inc.
- SGS

### **Viterra**

- Eurofins GeneScan, Inc.
- Quantum Biosciences Inc.

### **Paterson Grain (preferred labs)**

- 20/20 Seed Labs Inc.
- Eurofins GeneScan Inc.
- Quantum Biosciences Inc.
- SGS

## 2011 Farm Stewardship Procedures - LIST OF APPROVED LABS

<p><b>20/20 Seed Labs Inc.</b>          Suite 201, 509 - 11th Ave          Nisku, Alberta, Canada T9E 7N5          Telephone: 780-955-3435 or 877-420-2099          Facsimile: 780-955-3428  <a href="http://www.2020seedlabs.ca">www.2020seedlabs.ca</a>          Email: <a href="mailto:barry@2020seedlabs.ca">barry@2020seedlabs.ca</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>	<p><b>BioDiagnostics Inc.</b>          507 Highland Drive          River Falls, Wisconsin, USA 54022          Telephone: 715-426-0246 x 118          Cell: 515-240-7679          Facsimile: 715-426-0251  <a href="http://www.biodiagnostics.net">www.biodiagnostics.net</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>
<p><b>BioVision Seed Labs</b>          7225 B Roper Road          Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6B 3J4          Telephone: 800-952-5407          Facsimile: 780-437-6875  <a href="http://www.biovision.ca">www.biovision.ca</a>          Email: <a href="mailto:trevorm@biovision.ca">trevorm@biovision.ca</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>	<p><b>Discovery Seed Labs Ltd.</b>          450 Melville St.          Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7J 4M2          Telephone: 306-249-4484          Facsimile: 306-249-4434          Email: <a href="mailto:info@seedtesting.com">info@seedtesting.com</a>          Attention: Bruce Carriere or Sandy Junek</p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>
<p><b>Eurofins GeneScan, Inc.</b>          2315 N Causeway Blvd, Suite 200          Metairie, Los Angeles, USA 70001          Telephone : 504-297-4330 or 504-297-4355          Facsimile : 504-297-4335  <a href="http://www.gmotesting.com">www.gmotesting.com</a>          Email: <a href="mailto:frankspiegelhalter@eurofinsus.com">frankspiegelhalter@eurofinsus.com</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form – Farm Saved Seed</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form – Pedigreed Seed</a></p>	<p><b>Genserve Laboratories          Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC)</b>          125 – 15 Innovation Boulevard          Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 2X8          Telephone: 306-933-7747          Facsimile: 306-933-5505  <a href="http://www.src.sk.ca">www.src.sk.ca</a>          Email: <a href="mailto:jako@src.sk.ca">jako@src.sk.ca</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>
<p><b>OMIC USA Inc.</b>          3344 N.W. Industrial Street          Portland, Oregon, USA 97210          Telephone: 503-223-1497          Facsimile: 503-223-9436  <a href="http://www.omicusa.com">www.omicusa.com</a>          Email: <a href="mailto:csingsit@omicnet.com">csingsit@omicnet.com</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>	<p><b>Quantum Biosciences Inc.</b>  <b>101 110 Research Drive</b>  <b>Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada S7N 3R3</b>          Telephone: 306-956-2082          Facsimile: 306-956-2066          Email: <a href="mailto:l.marquess@quantumgenetics.ca">l.marquess@quantumgenetics.ca</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>
<p><b>SGS Brookings</b>          236 - 32 Avenue          Brookings, South Dakota, USA 57006          Telephone: 605-692-7611  <a href="http://www.mwseed.com">www.mwseed.com</a>          Email: <a href="mailto:Kalyn.brixdavis@sgs.com">Kalyn.brixdavis@sgs.com</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>	<p><b>SGS Winnipeg</b>          #103 – 138 Portage Ave. E.          Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0A1          Phone: 888-942-7644  <a href="http://www.seedservices.sgs.com">www.seedservices.sgs.com</a></p> <p><a href="#">Test Submission Form</a></p>