



Pedigreed Flax Seed Testing Program

January 22nd, 2010

The flax industry has developed a policy that will apply to flax that is to be exported to GM sensitive markets. In order for seed produced in the next crop year to be accepted for certain markets, the producer will need to be able to document that it was grown from seed that was pedigreed, tested and proven to be free of any GM event.

[Labs](#) that have indicated they are capable of detecting Triffid **below** 0.01% should follow the protocol outlined below.

Pedigreed flax seed testing program

In order that all flax that is sown this spring is GM free, the seed growers are being asked to do two things that will relate to labs testing for Triffid.

1. Have a hand cleaned sample tested before “conditioning” the seed. If the sample tests positive, there is no point in the seed grower spending anymore time or money on this lot. For this test, one (1) replicate is sufficient per sample.
2. If the sample tests negative, the seed grower should proceed to “condition” the seed. When this process is completed, a representative sample will have to be tested. For this test, four (4) replicates are required per sample.

A system has been established to track the results of pedigreed seed testing. In this case, the results will be shared with the Canadian Seed Growers’ Association (CSGA) as well as the FCC. In cases when pedigreed seed tests positive, the CSGA will be able to track back and attempt to determine where the contamination took place.

To sum up, the information labs need to get from the **seed growers** besides name, etc, is:

1. The crop certificate number
2. The lot number
3. Variety
4. Which sample is it, *before* conditioning or *after* conditioning?
5. Permission to release data

The database we are working with has been developed by OlaTech Corporation in Winnipeg. They will make available to you an online form that you can use to enter test results into directly. You will only have access to the results you enter. Once entered you will be able to export the data to whatever system you are using internally, i.e., Excel, etc.

All labs that have been previously approved by the Grain Research Laboratory/Canadian Grain Commission will be acceptable to the industry to participate in the Pedigreed Testing Program.

Producer flax testing program

Under the producer flax testing program The Flax Council of Canada (FCC) has developed a separate database into which the results of the tests are entered. Access to this data is restricted to the Flax Council of Canada (FCC) and bulk flax exporters. When producers bring a sample to be tested, they are asked to sign a release that allows the lab to send the data to FCC.

For further information, please contact the Flax Council of Canada at 982-2115; email: [Flax Council](#).