



Growing together

NEW ZEALAND SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

SEPTEMBER 2021

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THE SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION NEWSLETTER

The seed potato certification newsletter is back. We will be producing an annual newsletter in September and will include important information for the coming seed year.

The other way of communicating seed information will be through the Potatoes NZ website (www.potatoesnz.co.nz). We will be updating the website to ensure that the most recent and relevant information is easily accessible. Please let us know how we are doing – we welcome your feedback.

NEW CROP INSPECTORS JOIN POTATOES NEW ZEALAND

We are glad to inform you that PNZ will start providing Field & Tuber inspection internally and will be employing two new crop inspectors (Cyril & Tristan Hickman) in the South Island. Cyril will be starting at the beginning of December 2021 and Tristan at the beginning of January 2022. PNZ staff will complete any early inspections.

AsureQuality will continue providing field & tuber inspection in the North Island and Eurogrow, as an Approved Organisation, will remain the same.

FEES FOR THE 2021-22 SEED YEAR

The entry fees for the 2021-22 will not be increased.

Potatoes New Zealand will reduce the cost of Seed Certification to growers for the coming season by \$5/ha and will review the cost at the end of the season for future discounts.

The fee comprises of an administration and an inspection fee.

Where growers are operating with an Approved Organisation the Authority will recover the grower's administration fee from the Approved Organisation.

All other seed growers will be invoiced by the Authority for the combined administration and inspection fees. Half of the total will be invoiced in February and the balance in May.

The entry fee for “standard” entries (i.e., those where field and tuber inspections are carried out byASUREQuality or PNZ) will be \$305 plus GST per hectare.

ANNUAL CROP REGISTRATION

Each seed line must be registered annually. Everyone needs to complete the current ‘*Application for seed potato certification*’ form ([Application for Seed Potato Certification Form EXCEL \(Aug 2021\)](#) or [Application for Seed Potato Certification Form WORD \(Aug 2021\)](#)). This form can be completed on excel format (preferred option) or hard copy and needs to be sent to PNZ directly by email (avoid sending the form by courier as it will take longer to process).

A reminder to supply a *Farm Map* with the GPS coordinates/location of the paddock (if provided on PCN registration no need for seed registration) and a *Plot Map* ensuring that each entry is clearly marked with the variety name, harvested generation, and seed sown reference no. (if necessary).

POTATO CYST NEMATODE PROGRAMME REGISTRATION

All registered seed potato crops must be entered into, and be compliant with, the Ministry for Primary Industries’ (MPI) ‘MPI Phytosanitary Official Assurance Programme for Potato Cyst Nematode and Potato Wart’. Growers must register their crops into the MPI programme through Potatoes New Zealand and PNZ will forward to their Independent Verification Agency. ([2021-2022 PCN Programme Registration Form](#))

Designated production sites where **no** solanaceous crops have been grown, for a period of at least 10 years, may be exempted from PCN survey. Growers wanting to apply for an exemption from the PCN survey need to complete the Statutory Declaration 10 Years Exemption from PCN Survey. ([ASURE QUALITY: PCN Survey - 10 years exemption form WORD](#) or [SGS: PCN Survey - 10 years exemption form PDF](#)).

IDENTIFICATION OF SEEDLINES ON PRODUCTION SITE

Each seed line must be readily identifiable in the field throughout the growing season with the *planted and harvested generation* on the label or at least the *harvested generation*. Some examples are below.



G2 VIRUS TESTING

All G2 lines (i.e., G1 seed that is planted and is registered as G2 for field and tuber inspection) are required to undergo leaf testing for viruses.

Merchants or growers must collect leaf samples from all G2 registered crops and submit these for virus testing by a laboratory approved by the Authority.

PNZ will send the “*Sample Submission Form*” for Virus Testing for each G2 line that needs to be sampled with the Crop Ref. No. attached.

Test results must be forwarded to the sample submitter and a copy to the Scheme Administrator before the crop can be certified.

- If more than one sample out of ten (from ten x ten leaf sub-samples) tests positive then the line must be removed from the scheme.
- If one sample out of ten tests positive, then the G2 label must be endorsed “*failed G2 virus test*” and the seed line will be subject to a compulsory virus test at G3. The G3 line is subject to the same criteria as G2 lines. Continued failure will require G4, G5 and G6 lines also being tested as above.
- If growers forget to do the G2 virus testing, they will be subjected to a compulsory test at G3.

SEED RULES CHANGES

There have been a number of changes to the rules which will come into effect for the 2021-22 seed year. All the changes have been approved by the Authority and presented to the seed growers at the seed grower meeting held in Methven on 27th July 2021 and will be clearly identified in the Amendment Record of the “*New Zealand Seed Potato Certification Authority – Seed Scheme Rulebook*”; which will be published on the website and sent out to all growers, merchants, and trade members.

The main changes are listed below (some of the minor changes relating to renaming of other documents are not detailed below).

Group Programme

Current wording: “In the group programme growers maintain seedlines on their farms and make selections from these for multiplication. Seed may enter from any source and is not required to be obtained from approved facilities”.

New wording: “In the group programme growers maintain seedlines on their farms and make selections from these for multiplication. Seed **may must** enter from **approved tissue culture laboratories or mini-tuber production facilities**”.

Requirement for growers – Number of Field Inspections required

Current wording: “All seed lines entered will have two inspections, except for Red King Edward, Jersey Benne, Russet Burbank and Russet Ranger which require three inspections. The first inspection should be carried before row closure and it is grower’s responsibility to get the inspector in, and the second inspection should be between flowering and haulm destruction in order to spot any rogue/mixed varieties”.

New wording: “All seed lines entered will have two inspections, except for Red King Edward, Jersey Benne, Russet Burbank and Russet Ranger **or crops with a duration greater than 110 days from planting** which require three inspections. The first inspection should be carried before row closure and it is grower’s responsibility to get the inspector in, **and the** second inspection should be between flowering and haulm destruction to spot any rogue/mixed varieties, **and third field inspection should be carried as close as practical to haulm destruction.**”

To assist growers to comply with this new rule, PNZ will be firstly adding to the registration details (which is forwarded to growers by email) a new row indicating the date when the seed line will reach 110 days from planting. Secondly, PNZ will send a text reminder around mid-January to check the duration of their crops and organize a third inspection if required.”

Requirement for growers – Field Inspection Standards

Current wording:

All inspectors should inspect a representative sample of the crop, this should be done by walking a percentage of each

seed line, which might vary depending on generation and planting population.

- **G0>G1** Harvest – inspect all of the crop twice.
- **G1>G2** Harvest – inspect 50% of the crop twice, 2 inspections = 100% of crop inspected once, third inspection just prior to burn off depending on variety / length of growing season.
- **G2>G3** Harvest – inspect 12.5% of the crop twice, entering different rows each inspection, 2 inspections = 25% of the crop inspected once, third inspection just prior to burn off depending on variety / length of growing season.
- **G3>G4** Harvest – inspect 12.5% of the crop twice, entering different rows each inspection, 2 inspections = 25% of the crop inspected once, third inspection triggered depending on variety / length of growing season or if a problem occurs half or more of the tolerance at first or second inspection.
- **G4>G5** Harvest – inspect 2 in 20 rows twice, entering in different places for each inspection, third inspection triggered depending on variety / length of growing season or if a problem occurs half or more of the tolerance at first or second inspection.
- **G5>G6** Harvest – inspect 2 in 24 rows twice, entering in different places for each inspection, third inspection triggered depending on variety / length of growing season or if a problem occurs half or more of the tolerance at first or second inspection.

Where required, plants count can be done using the following protocol:

Inspectors should look only at the row either side of them as they walk up and down the rows of each stock, counting from the start, this will make inspections easier. Knowing plant populations will allow for percentages to be established.

Follow the above recommendations on 1st inspection and during 2nd inspection adapt to field circumstances.

New wording:

All inspectors should inspect a representative sample of the crop, this should be done by walking a percentage of each seed line, which might vary depending on generation and planting population.

- **G0>G1** Harvest – inspect all ~~of~~ the crop ~~twice~~ (2/3 inspections).
- **G1>G2** Harvest – inspect all the crop (2/3 inspections).
- **G2>G3** Harvest – inspect every 12 rows, walking in the first time 6 rows and then 12 rows scanning 5 rows in each side, entering different rows each inspection (2/3 inspections). Third inspection just prior to burn off depending on variety/length of growing season.
- **G3>G4** Harvest – inspect every 16 rows, walking in the first time 8 rows and then 16 rows scanning 5 rows in each side, entering different rows each inspection (2/3 inspections). Third inspection triggered depending on variety/length of growing season or if a problem occurs half or more of the tolerance at first or second inspection.
- **G4>G5** Harvest – inspect every 20 rows, walking in the first time 10 rows and then 20 rows scanning 5 rows in each side, entering different rows each inspection (2/3 inspections). Third inspection triggered depending on variety/length of growing season or if a problem occurs half or more of the tolerance at first or second inspection.
- **G5>G6** Harvest – inspect every 24 rows, walking in the first time 12 rows and then 24 rows scanning 5 rows in each side, entering different rows each inspection (2/3 inspections). Third inspection triggered depending on variety/length of growing season or if a problem occurs half or more of the tolerance at first or second inspection.

If a count is required do a minimum of 3 counts per seed line in 3 different areas, walking in each count 100 metres and inspecting a total of 1000 plants. At the end of your 3 counts you will have inspected a minimum of 3000 plants.

Follow the above recommendations on 1st inspection and during 2nd/ 3rd inspection adapt to field circumstances.

Requirement for growers – Appeals

Current wording: “Each crop for which an appeal is lodged is considered to be a separate appeal. For example, if two crops in one paddock are appealed these will be considered as separate appeals.

An appeal fee of \$1000 plus GST per crop under appeal is payable at the time of lodging an appeal.

New wording: ~~“Each crop for which an appeal is lodged is considered to be a separate appeal. For example, if two crops in one paddock are appealed these will be considered as separate appeals.”~~

An appeal fee of \$1000 plus GST per ~~crop~~ **production site** under appeal is payable at the time of lodging an appeal.

Change of the person responsible refereeing the appeal from the appeal panel to the secretary.

Requirement for growers – Official Tuber Inspection

Current wording: “Seed potatoes for certification must be officially inspected at any point when ownership of that seed changes hands, except for ‘Field Certified’ lines. Seed lots exceeding specified tolerances will be rejected from certification. Inspectors must complete a ‘Tuber Inspection Form’ (refer Appendix 4) and submit completed form to the Administrator”.

New wording: “Seed potatoes for certification must be officially inspected at any point when ownership of that seed changes hands, except for ‘Field Certified’ lines. Seed lots exceeding specified tolerances will be rejected from certification. Inspectors must complete a ‘Tuber Inspection Form’ (refer Appendix 4) **for each seed lot inspected** and submit completed form to the Administrator. **Each form has a seed lot number assigned (four-digit code preceded by a letter denoting the inspector), which define a specified volume of seed from a particular seed line and a particular seed size range.**

Tuber Inspection protocol:

Tuber Consignment (Tonnes)	Sample Size (Tubers)	Minimum Number of bins to be sampled
<10	100	4
10 - 20	200	4
20 - 30	300	4
30 - 40	400	4
40 - 50	500	5
50 - 60	600	6

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