



*Growing together*

## NEW ZEALAND SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

### MEMBER NEWS

Potatoes NZ & NZSPCA acknowledge the recent death of Pravin Masters in Pukekohe, after an illness. Pravin passed away peacefully at home on September 11, 2022 surrounded by family and loved ones. He was 71. The Masters Family began farming over 70 years ago and are well known for their 100% family owned and operated market gardening production, packing, marketing and export business.

### FEES FOR THE 2022-23 SEED YEAR

The entry fees for the 2022-23 will not be increased.

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 seedline 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).

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- Same fee for the 2022-23 seed year.
- Annual crop registration.
- PCN programme registration.
- Identification of seedlines on production site.
- G2 virus testing.
- Seed rules changes.
- Herbicide damage – List of top chemicals to consider.
- 22-23 Field inspection WorkSafe REI’S.
- Contact details.



## 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. [2022-2023 PCN Programme Registration Form](#)

This season PNZ will be onsite assisting growers with completion of PCN documentation.

Importance of providing:

- ✓ Accurate production site maps showing GPS coordinates
- ✓ Correct ROP farm site identification
- ✓ Valuation number

Pre plant soil sampling (most cost effective).

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](#)).

It must be submitted prior to planting and must provide:

- Official Statutory Declaration
- A yearly diary entry for each year (minimum 10 years) showing fertilizer records, stock grazing, etc.

## IDENTIFICATION OF SEEDLINES ON PRODUCTION SITE

Each seedline 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 growers forget to do the G2 virus testing, they will be subject to a compulsory test at G3.

3 different options for G2 virus testing (minimum standard):

- A) Collect 1 leaf from 100 plants and test 10x10 (10 tests)
- B) Collect 1 leaf from 10 separate plants and test 1x10 (10 tests) for small plots
- C) Collect 1 leaf from 20 separate plants and test 10x2 (2 tests)

- If more than one sample out of ten (option A & B) tests positive then the line must be removed from the scheme.
- If one sample out of ten (option A & B) tests positive then the G2 label must be endorsed “failed G2 virus test” and the seedline 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 the result from option C tests positive either re-test 1x10 (10 tests) or 10x10 (10 tests) in the same season or retest 10x10 (10 tests) the following season.

## SEED RULES CHANGES

There have been a few changes to the rules which will come into effect for the 2022-23 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 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 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).

## 1) Tolerances for faults at tuber inspection

**Current wording:** “Table 2. Maximum allowable faults in a tuber sample within the group programme and all generations of the pyramid programme (refer also separate tolerances for scab, Rhizoctonia, size and misshapen tubers).”

<b>Fault type</b>	<b>Maximum %</b>
Potato Tuber Moth and & insect damage	4
Dry rot ( <i>Fusarium</i> /Gangrene)	1
External damage (not infected, as lesions deeper than 2mm into the tuber)	4
Stem end rot	2
Wet rot	0.1
<b>Combined maximum faults</b>	<b>5</b>

**Proposed wording:** “Table 2. Maximum allowable faults in a tuber sample within the group programme and all generations of the pyramid programme (refer also separate tolerances for scab, Rhizoctonia, size and misshapen tubers)”.

<b>Fault type</b>	<b>Maximum %</b>
Potato Tuber Moth/insect damage	4
External damage (not infected, as lesions deeper than 2mm into the tuber)	4
Stem end rot	2
<b>Combined maximum faults</b>	<b>5</b>

“Table 3. Maximum allowable diseases in a tuber sample within the group programme and all generations of the pyramid programme”.

<b>Diseases</b>	<b>Maximum %</b>
Wet rot	0.1
Dry rot ( <i>Fusarium</i> /Gangrene)	1
Root knot nematode	2

## 2) Requirements for registered facilities for the production of mini-tubers for certified seed production - Pre-harvest testing

**Current wording:** “Sampling of leaves from each line for pre-harvest testing for virus (the lesser of 10% of plants or 100 leaves per line, to be tested for the 6 viruses identified in Appendix 2).”

**Proposed wording:**

Remove the following rule from the Seed Rulebook in regards to the requirements for registered facilities for the production of mini-tubers for certified seed production: “Sampling of leaves from each line for pre-harvest testing for virus (the lesser of 10% of plants or 100 leaves per line, to be tested for the 6 viruses identified in Appendix 2)” and inform mini-tuber production facilities of the update.

## HERBICIDE DAMAGE - LIST OF TOP CHEMICALS TO CONSIDER

The following table showed the list of top herbicides to be avoided prior to planting potatoes.

Active Ingredient(s)	Tradename Examples	Recommended time Period/Restriction
Clopyralid	Versatill Powerflo, Multiple, Void, Archer, Korvetto	3-12 months Eg. Versatill (up to 250 ml 3 months, >250ml 12 months)
	Radiate, Prestige, Monarch, Element, Purge, Milestone	2 years
Aminopyralid	Tordon PastureBoss, T-Max, Apache, Tordon Brushkiller XT, Milestone	2 years
Picloram	Radiate, Prestige, Monarch, Element, Purge, Tordon Brushkiller XT	2 years
	Pycus	1 year
Imazethapyr	Spinnaker, Equate, Kyte 700WG	6 months-2 years

## 22-23 FIELD INSPECTION WORKSAFE REI'S

WorkSafe consulted on propose new restricted entry intervals (REI) for selected pesticides. In response to the WorkSafe revision of the REI's, PNZ has updated their health and safety protocols.

Horticulture NZ has done a submission which PNZ is supporting. At the same time PNZ has done a submission which focus seed certification as a case study the issues that seed certification will face as an exemplar of the impact of the proposed changes.

Last update on the WorkSafe REI proposal is that they aren't looking to rush things and are wanting to make sure they do things in a considered way that results in REIs that are both protective and reasonable. They haven't set a timeframe so probably going into next year at least, but WorkSafe are going to form a working group to look at how WorkSafe will/should go about setting REIs.



## KEY CONTACTS:

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