



Growing together

NEW ZEALAND SEED POTATO CERTIFICATION AUTHORITY

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Same fee for the 2023-24 seed year.
- Annual crop registration.
- PCN programme.
- Scab Testing Options.
- Seed rules changes.
- Contact details.

FEES FOR THE 2023-24 SEED YEAR

The entry fees for the 2023-24 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).

POTATO CYST NEMATODE PROGRAMME



After the findings of Potato Cyst Nematode (PCN) in Canterbury region, where four paddocks from a single property returned positive results for PCN, Potatoes New Zealand decided to take steps to review the PCN Management plan.

The objective was to better understand the extent and distribution of the pathogen specifically within the Canterbury region. To achieve this, a PCN region-wide survey was planned by collecting and analysing 500 gr of soil from piler/under grader samples, involving the processors, the fresh potato, and seed industries under complete anonymity.

The survey is now underway, and the up-to-date results have all come back negative.

PCN on Farm Biosecurity

Key issues

- Potato cyst nematode and other pests and diseases can be spread on seed tubers, in soil associated with boots, machinery, etc, and in waste from table potatoes.
- Once PCN is in the soil it is almost impossible to remove.
- Only certified seed tubers should be grown.
- Machinery and vehicles should be washed before they are moved to a different farm.
- Contractors and their vehicles may pose a significant contamination risk.

Preventing spread of PCN

✓ Seed potatoes

Seed potatoes have the potential to carry PCN and introduce it into a new area. All certified seed potato crops grown in New Zealand are surveyed for PCN so the risk posed by certified seed potatoes is minimal. Seed from unsurveyed crops can pose a serious risk, so commercial growers should only grow from certified seed potatoes.

✓ Soil movement

The movement of soil is a common way of spreading PCN. Even a small amount of soil is enough to spread PCN, so soil movement must be restricted as much possible. Machinery, bins and containers, or anything else which is used in the field, can easily pick up soil which can be dislodged the next time the equipment is used. If the soil is infested with PCN then this will lead to a new area becoming contaminated.

High pressure washing is the best way to remove soil and the potato cyst nematode from equipment.

✓ Potato wastes

Waste such as reject tubers, wash water, and soil from processing factories or table potato packing operations can all carry PCN. Feeding out reject tubers or spreading this waste onto fields can lead to new infestations so should be avoided. Potato washing water should be filtered or ponded with the settled sludge disposed of in a landfill. Cleaning machinery, vehicles, and bins It is essential to clean equipment and bins when moved between farms because it is often difficult to be certain whether the other farm's soil is clear of PCN. All farms or blocks of land used for potato growing should have a specific area which is used for the washing down of machinery.

✓ Washdown areas

- Location: An open area close to property entrances and located as far as possible from growing areas.
- Drainage: Ideally a sump or a waste water collection area for drainage of water, soil and plant debris. If this is not possible ensure that waste water does not run-off onto production areas.



- Size: Enough room for large machines and vehicles to enter and move around.
- Cleaning equipment: Dedicated high pressure hoses or waterblaster.
- Surface: Concrete, gravel or bitumen is ideal. A grassed surface is not recommended due to the potential for some pests to be spread by soil and on plant matter.
- Timing: Ideally cleaning will take place on the property the soil has originated from rather than transporting machinery and/or equipment to a new location to clean.
- Signage: Clean down areas should be signposted and directions provided from the property entrance. This will ensure visitors are aware of the clean down facility and can report to it on arrival.

✓ Contractors and visitors

Contractors and other visitors such as crop monitors, sales reps and agronomists may visit several farms in quick succession, so their vehicles can easily spread infested soil. Control the movement of contractors and other visitors on your property by using signage that provides contact phone numbers or directs visitors to the office so you can give instruction on requirements for farm hygiene. Keep a register of visitors. When the same tools and machinery are used at several farms this can pose a significant risk. It is important



to make sure that contractors are aware of the risks they pose and that they appreciate that good farm hygiene is essential to maintain productivity. Consider including cleaning requirements in any contractual arrangements you have with contractors or other service providers that visit your property. Soil is easily picked up by vehicles driving through farms. As well as this, when crops are transported soil can be dropped onto roads and then picked up on the tires of passing vehicles. This soil can then contaminate other farms. Try to minimise the number of vehicles which enter your fields and also the number of entry points. Be particularly wary of vehicles which have visited other properties which may be infested with PCN or other diseases (such as the vehicles of merchants, agronomists, or contractors). Ensure that contractors and other visitors are aware of the location of sites for washing down equipment and boots.

✓ Boots

When leaving a farm or block of land any clods of soil should be removed from boots with a stiff brush, and boots should be washed. If disinfecting/sanitising boots be aware that soil must be removed first. The uses of disinfectants and sanitisers without removing soil first will not be effective as the soil and organic matter deactivates the disinfectants/sanitisers.



✓ Grazing animals

Animals grazing on pasture can pick up and transport soil and plant material. Some diseases can also survive an animal's

digestive system meaning when stock are moved a disease can be spread with the stock. Growers should be aware of these risks when choosing stock feed e.g., reject potatoes and when livestock are moved between fields.

- ✓ Lease land

Farm hygiene is particularly important when land is leased as records may not be available of the previous crop history. Get as much information as possible on the history of the land, particularly regarding potato cultivation, whether potatoes have been fed out on the block, and the results of any PCN testing.

Management of PCN

Once fields are infested with PCN it is very difficult to eliminate the infestation. The objective should be to minimize the impact on potato production and prevent spread to other fields. At low levels PCN can have little impact on yields. Depending on soil type PCN populations can decline over time to levels that are below damage thresholds.

- Resistant cultivars
- Use long crop rotation
- Nematicides
- Pre-plant soil testing

PCN Registrations

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. [2023-2024 PCN Programme Registration Form](#)

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.

SCAB TESTING

Scab testing has been delivered by Plant & Food in the last few years and was provided free of charge. From next season (23-24) Plant & Food will have a fixed price of \$8,200/year which means that Potatoes New Zealand will have to increase the Seed certification fee.

Potatoes New Zealand believes that this is a high cost to the seed industry therefore is proposing other options:

- a) Train PNZ staff to do it. Get a microscope for *Spongospora subterranea* (Sss) detection.
- b) Get Sss AgriStrip Complete kit 25.
- c) Plant & Food to do the Scab testing and charge directly to growers/merchants.

SEED RULES CHANGES

There have been a few changes to the rules which will come into effect for the 2023-24 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 7th September 2023 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 change is listed below (some of the minor changes relating to renaming of other documents are not detailed below):

G2 Virus Testing

➤ 3 sampling options for G2 virus testing:

- 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.

➤ **If the G2 virus test is missed completely, the seedline will be subject to a compulsory virus test at the next generation and the G2 label will be endorsed with “virus test not completed”. If the virus test is missed again at G3 the seedline will be uncertified.**

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