



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2560 • (360) 902-1800

DATE: June 17, 2016
TO: Derek Sandison, Director
FROM: Henri Gonzales, Hearing Officer
RE: Public Hearing on Proposed Changes to Chapter 16-301 WAC, General Seed Regulations (Crucifer Seed Quarantine)

June 16, 2016
Washington State Dept. of Agriculture
Yakima, WA

Background

The crucifer seed quarantine was initially established in 2006. Its primary purpose is to protect the state's crucifer vegetable seed, biofumigant, and oil seed industries from the introduction of seed infected with certain bacterial and fungal pathogens and from the introduction of crucifer seed containing dormant seed. It provides the seed growers with sources of crucifer seed that has been tested and proven to be free from harmful pathogens and dormant seed. The quarantine regulates both bacterial and fungal diseases and the organisms identified as the causal agents for the diseases. When the quarantine was initially established it designated all counties except Clallam, Island, Lewis, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom as quarantined area. The quarantine was amended in 2015, to designate all of eastern Washington as a regulated area. A regulated area is an area specified as protected from regulated diseases by the provisions of the quarantine. Any regulated article transported into a regulated area must comply with the testing and treatment regulations of this quarantine.

On October 26, 2015, the agency was petitioned to revise the crucifer seed quarantine trial ground exemption. In addition to removing the quarantine exemption for experiments or trial grounds of universities and the United States Dept. of Agriculture and the exemption for seed lots with a maximum weight of 5 pounds that were in inventory prior to January 1, 2007, the amendments include:

- Lifting the requirement for seed dormancy testing in the eastern Washington regulated area;
- Requiring regulated articles to be tested and treated before transport into a regulated area;
- Modifying the due dates for trial ground inspection applications;

- Requiring trial grounds to meet the standards set in the *Isolating Seed Fields in the Columbia Basin of Washington* publication;
- Requiring that the phytosanitary field inspection application identify the method by which volunteers will be controlled in the following year and specifying that the department will conduct at least 1 inspection to ensure control was effective;
- Requiring that trial grounds be monitored at least twice monthly and records maintained of the monitoring;
- Requiring notification to the department within 24 hours when a regulated disease is identified in a trial ground;
- Requiring infected plant residue to be promptly destroyed by chopping and incorporating it into the soil or by other means approved by the department; and
- Modifying the rule to make it more clear and readable.

An initial CR-102 announcing the proposed amendments was filed on April 6, 2016, and published in the Washington State Register on April 20, 2016. This CR-102 and proposed language was sent to stakeholders. The CR-102 was withdrawn on April 20, 2016, due to a request to change the language affecting university research trial grounds. The withdrawal was published on May 4, 2016. The language was modified to incorporate the requested change and another CR-102 announcing the revised proposed amendments was filed on May 4, 2016. This CR-102 was published in the Washington State Register on May 18, 2016. The CR-102s and language were placed on the agency website and were distributed to stakeholders.

The public comment period ran from May 4, 2016 until the close of business on June 16, 2016.

Hearing Process

A hearing was held in Yakima on June 16. There were no members of the public present at the hearing.

No written comments were received regarding the proposed amendments.

Attachments: Hearing sign-in sheets
CR-102 with proposed rule language

cc: Jason Ferrante
Victor Shaul
Jeff Larsen