

## **THE CANADIAN SEED GROWERS ASSOCIATION**

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association is designated by the Canada Seeds Act and Regulations (legislation of the parliament of Canada) as the official pedigree agency responsible for prescribing genetic crop standards and issuing crop certificates for Canadian produced pedigreed crops with the exception of potatoes.

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association came into being in 1904. The Regulations and Procedures for Pedigreed Seed Crop Production is the manual prepared by the Association to provide the guidelines for pedigreed crop production in Canada. It represents the coordinated effort of federal, provincial and university research and regulatory specialists of the seed trade assisted by the practical experience of seed growers.

The relationship between the CSGA and Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is unique and has progressed over the years on an almost partnership basis to improve the usage of pedigreed seed in Canada. The Canada Seeds Act governs the mechanical purity, germination, and quality of seed as well as the grading and labeling of seed. Only seed produced from crops covered by a CSGA crop certificate may be graded as pedigreed seed. The inspection staff of the CFIA provides the crop inspection service and reports to the CSGA on the genetic purity, isolation and weed condition of crops. The CSGA makes the decision on the basis of the crop report to grant a pedigreed crop certificate.

The affairs of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association are conducted by a President and a twenty-four-member Board of Directors. Twelve are active seed growers elected by the general membership and nine are appointed by the Provincial Ministers of Agriculture. The Head Office of the Association is in Ottawa, Ontario, under the supervision of an Executive Director.

Provision is made for provincial or regional organizations affiliated with the CSGA. These provincial organizations are not authorized to issue crop certificates or in any way act as a crop pedigree agency. They act as a liaison between the grower and the national organization and conduct promotional and extension programs.

The CSGA has been a member of AOSCA and previously the International Crop Improvement Association since inception.