

Planting Permits for Seed Potatoes* Originating From Outside the Province: Guidelines for Planting

Pursuant to Section 12 of the Potatoes Regulations, each lot of seed potatoes originating from outside of Prince Edward Island requires a permit from the Minister of Agriculture and Land PRIOR to being planted on Prince Edward Island.

A permit will be issued for each approved lot of seed potatoes that is identified with an individual certification number, or in the case of seed from a State of the United States, an identifier acceptable to CFIA.

PERMITS MUST BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO PLANTING ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Guidelines to Obtain a Permit

1. The following guidelines are issued pursuant to Section 12 of the *Plant Health Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, P-9.1, Potatoes Regulations (hereafter “Potatoes Regulations”). Terminology appearing in these guidelines is the same as that used in the Act and Regulations and has the same meaning and interpretation.
2. The following guidelines are issued in addition to the policy document “Import Requirements for Seed Potatoes and Other Potato Propagative Material;” directive D-98-01 (9th revision), administered by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).
3. Provincial regulatory requirements do not extend to activities of the Government of Canada taking place on federally owned properties, such as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) potato research.

The planting of seed potatoes grown on farm units located outside the province of Prince Edward Island is regulated **to prevent the entry of regulated diseases and their causal pathogens.**

4. Before the planting of such seed will be permitted, the Minister must be satisfied that planting does not pose a phytosanitary risk with respect to regulated diseases or their causal pathogens. The following requirements must be fulfilled before a permit can be issued:
 - A. All field-grown seed lots produced on farm units located outside of Prince Edward Island **MUST** meet the following criteria to be eligible to be planted on Prince Edward Island:
 - (i) Seed lots shall be tested and found negative for BRR in a laboratory approved by CFIA for BRR testing. Lots are to be sampled and tested pursuant to Canada’s Seeds Regulations Part II for Seed Potatoes.

* “Seed Potato” is defined in the Potatoes Regulations of the *Plant Health Act* R.S.P.E.I. 1988, P-9.1

- (ii) Each seed lot shall be post-harvest tested utilizing an ELISA or PCR laboratory test for Potato Virus Y (PVY) and Potato Leaf Roll Virus (PLRV) in a CFIA or USDA approved laboratory. Testing shall be done in accordance with Section 14 of the Potatoes Regulations and the conditions outlined below:
- (a) The post-harvest test level for PLRV shall not exceed 2%. The total post-harvest level (PVY + PLRV) shall not exceed 3%.
- (b) Sample size requirements shall be the following:
- For seed lots representing seed potato production of 0.5 ha or less a sample of 100 tubers is required.
 - For seed lots representing seed potato production of 0.5 to 16 hectares, a sample of 200 tubers is required.
 - For seed lots representing seed potato production over 16 hectares, the sample required is 200 tubers plus 10 tubers per each additional hectare above 16 hectare.
- (c) A single sample can be used for virus testing and Bacterial Ring Rot (BRR) testing pursuant to Clauses (b) and (c) provided all testing procedures and requirements, including sample size, are met for both.
- (iii) Each seed shipment in bulk shall be identified at the time of loading by the issuance of a CFIA Bulk Movement Certificate/Record of Bulk Movement or Certificate of Authorization. Tags are required for potato seed received in bags.
- (iv) Each seed lot should be transported in trucks cleaned and disinfected BEFORE loading.

B. Each field-grown seed lot grown on a farm unit located in the United States MUST ALSO meet the following criteria to be eligible to be planted on Prince Edward Island:

- (i) Each seed lot shall be identified by a State Certification Program lot number or identifier recognized by CFIA.
- (ii) Each seed lot shall be assigned a seed potato classification equivalency by CFIA.
- (iii) Each seed lot shall originate from a farm unit that is free of BRR infection as certified by the relevant state seed potato certification agency.
- (iv) Each seed lot shall have a valid Import Permit issued by CFIA and a current North American Seed Potato Health Certificate issued by the relevant state potato certification agency.

C. Responsibilities of the Applicant

The Applicant is defined as that person(s), firm(s) or business(es) that applies for and receives a Permit pursuant to Section 12 of the Potatoes Regulations.

Prior to receiving a Permit:

The Applicant shall provide a copy of all documents and test results pursuant to Section A and shall provide all documents outlined in Section B for seed coming from United States farm units.

When the seed arrives on PEI, the applicant shall:

- notify PEIDAF officials, when requested, of seed lot storage location.
- report to the PEIDAF the distribution of all seed lots including a list of growers who took possession of, and/or planted, all or part of each lot.

Growers shall allow PEIDAF officials access to all fields planted under permit, so they can monitor these crops throughout the growing and harvesting seasons.

D. Testing Exemption for Disease Free Propagation Material:

Propagation material (including tuber, mini-tuber and plantlet material) which has been grown in a protected disease-free facility (greenhouse, screen house or laboratory) or which has been released from a post-entry quarantine or gene banking facility and which has been disease tested, as evidenced by a nuclear stock certificate, or its equivalent, issued or recognized by CFIA, will be considered for exemption from some or all of the test requirements of Section A. A permit must still be sought.

E. Planting of Genetically Modified Potato Material:

The planting of genetically modified seed potatoes must be done in accordance with any and all regulatory requirements of CFIA or AAFC specific to the planting of such material, in addition to being in compliance with all other aspects of these guidelines.

F. Other

(i) At the discretion of the Minister, further testing or visual inspection of any seed potatoes to be planted under permit may be required, at the expense of the applicant, after the material has arrived on Prince Edward Island for the purpose of confirmation of the absence of any regulated disease or its causal pathogen.

(ii) An exemption for the requirement of a post-harvest virus test may be provided to individuals planting potatoes for research purposes. Issuance of the exemption is at the Minister's discretion. A negative BRR test result is still required.

(iii) Provincial regulatory requirements do not extend to activities of the Government of Canada taking place on federally owned properties, such as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) potato research.

(iv) These Guidelines may be reviewed, amended or terminated at any time without notice at the discretion of the Minister.