



NZGSTA Newsletter July.August 2020

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- New Member - Southern Seed Technology Ltd
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Seed certification information system – Update

The Seed Certification Information system project is progressing, with the first planned development cycle nearing completion. User access testing is now underway on the functionality that has been built. The whole project is running on a very tight schedule to keep it within budget with a lot of functionality refinement work by Pat Ryan, the project manager. There has been a few unforeseen challenges for the project. These have been related to gaining accessibility to data in the current database for testing in the new system and meeting the security and privacy requirements of our regulator. Fortunately these should not impact the planned delivery timetable.

As previously indicated, the intention is to have the new system in production for the harvest 2022 crop.

Concurrently the NZSA has presented a policy paper to MPI for their review. Discussions are to start in mid July to establish what policy options would be acceptable to MPI going forward. Once these have been negotiated, NZSA hope to be in a position to offer the industry some options as to how the official seed certification scheme in New Zealand could be operated in the future to enhance traceability, supply chain efficiency and reduce cost.

Seed Industry contribution levy

You may have noticed that the recently agreed industry levy on certified seed to help fund the build of the new SCIS has not yet been applied to invoices issued by AsureQuality. We have been advised that this has been sorted so please expect to see this additional item on your next AsureQuality invoice. It will be retrospective to the beginning of this harvest season so the amount may be quite sizeable depending on the scale of your business.

New Australian import conditions - Cucurbitaceous vegetable seeds

The Australian Department of Agriculture has notified new revised plant import requirements for Cucurbitaceous vegetable seeds for sowing. This is due to eight quarantine pests (one fungus and seven viruses) associated with the seeds of several cucurbitaceous vegetables.

What has changed?

The following two risk management measures apply to seeds for sowing of *Citrullus lanatus* (watermelon), *Cucumis melo* (musk melon), *Cucumis sativus* (cucumber), *Cucurbita maxima* (squash), *Cucurbita moschata* (pumpkin), *Cucurbita pepo* (Zucchini), *Lagenaria siceraria* (Bottle gourd), *Momordica charantia* (bitter melon), *Trichosanthes cucumerina* (snake gourd):

- Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) test.
- Broad spectrum fungicidal treatment.

Background of these eight pests in New Zealand

(according to MPI Country Freedom database)

1. *Bitter gourd yellow mosaic virus* (**BgYMV**) – No record found.
2. *Cucumber fruit mottle mosaic virus* (**CFMMV**) - – No record found.
3. *Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus* (**CGMMV**) – Not known to occur in New Zealand.
4. *Kyuri green mottle mosaic virus* (**KGMMV**) – No record found.
5. *Melon necrotic spot virus* (**MNSV**) - No record found.
6. *Tomato black ring virus* (**TBRV**) – Yes, known to occur in New Zealand.
7. *Zucchini green mottle mosaic virus* (**ZGMMV**) - No record found.
8. *Diaporthe cucurbitae* (formerly *Phomopsis cucurbitae*) - No record found.

Notification about changes to the Seeds for sowing IHS

Seeds for sowing IHS has been issued with the following amendments:

- Measures for *Tomato mottle mosaic virus* on the specific requirements for *Capsicum* and *Solanum lycopersicum*.
- Removal of requirement for a phytosanitary certificate for pelleted seed lots of species with a basic import specification on the PBI.
- Measures for pospiviroids on the specific requirements for *Petunia* and *Solanum lycopersicum*.

Maize Survey 2020 - AIMI

Latest survey data released from the Arable Industry Marketing Initiative(AIMI) reports that 181,700 tonnes of Maize grain was harvested, down 7.2% on last year, and a slight decrease in average yields from 11.7t/ha last year to 11.6.t/ha.

The total estimated Maize silage harvest was of 1.18 million tonnes of dry matter (DM) harvested was down 1.4% on 2019 with yields decreasing 5.7% from 21.4t DM/ha last season to 20.2t DM/ha this season.

New Fed Farmers Arable Chair, Colin Hurst

South Canterbury farmer Colin Hurst is the new chairperson of the Federated Farmers Arable Industry Group. Hurst was elected at the group's annual meeting last month for a three-year term. He replaces Karen Williams, who is now vice-president elect of Federated Farmers of New Zealand.

ISF elects new president, Donald Coles

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IHS Apiaceae seeds, Implementation timeframe

On 16 June 2020 MPI published an amended Import Health Standard 155.02.05: Seeds for Sowing with the Apiaceae schedule removed.

Arable world record

Arable farmer Eric Watson has taken out the Guinness World Record for the highest wheat yield - for the second consecutive time. Watson produced a 17.398 tonnes per hectare wheat crop, beating his previous record in 2017 of 16.791 t/ha.

NZ Cereal production nearly 1million tonnes

New Zealand growers produced nearly 1 million tonnes of wheat, barley, and maize grain from 124,000 hectares in the 2019 harvest, according to latest Agricultural Production data from Statistics NZ.

Land under cereal grain production in NZ covers around 124,000 hectares. Over 73 percent of the crops are grown in the South Island and are concentrated in the Canterbury province.

Wheat

For the year ending 30 June 2019, 45,000 hectares of wheat was harvested, roughly the same as the 5 year average. A total of 398,100 tonnes was harvested, equating to a yield per hectare of 8.8 tonnes, down on the five year average of 9 tonnes per hectare.

Barley

In the year ended 30 June 2019, 55,500 hectares of grain barley was harvested, up 1 percent on the 5 year average. The total yield was 383,000

tonnes, or 6.9 tonnes per hectare, comparable with the 5 year average. Canterbury accounted for over 64 percent of the total area harvested.

Maize grain

The area of maize grain harvested was 16,700 hectares for the year ending 30 June 2019, 11% down on the 18,500 ha 5year average. Nearly all maize grain is harvested in the North Island. The main growing regions are Waikato, Gisborne, Bay of Plenty and Hawkes Bay.

SCID – isolation distances

As the spring sowing season approaches we want to remind users of the NZ Seed Crop Isolation Distance (SCID) mapping scheme that it is voluntary and for it to operate effectively, all operators who produce vegetable or cruciferous seed crops or oil seed crops should ~~carefully~~ check their isolation of paddock history very carefully.

Merchants should not rely exclusively on SCID to identify potential cross-pollination issues with neighbouring paddocks but also discuss with growers in the immediate area also with other merchants involved with brassica seed production, to try and identify and minimise potential issues prior to booking being made.

The purpose of the SCID system is to minimise the risks of a crop failure from contamination through cross-pollination from being planted too close to each other, and to better utilise the available areas for seed crop production.

MPI Emergency measures: Tomato Mosaic Mottle Virus

Following a pest risk assessment on Tomato mottle mosaic virus (ToMMV), MPI has advised that new emergency measures are in force for tomato and capsicum seed imports.

Tomato Red Spider Mite



In early June the Seed and Grain Readiness and Response (SGRR), the partnership representing the arable industry on biosecurity incursions, was advised by MPI of the detection of a priority pest – Tomato Red Spider Mites (TRSM), in the Auckland area, affecting process vegetable hosts, like capsicums, potatoes, eggplant and possibly beans.

At this stage it is not expected that TRSM will be of major consequence to species of relevance to the New Zealand arable sector.

That said, the SGRR continues working with other biosecurity Government Industry Agreement (GIA) partners to understand the distribution of the pest while a comprehensive risk assessment is completed.

National Party new Agriculture spokesman



In the recent National Party reshuffle, the leader Todd Muller has switched the AGRICULTURE spokesperson role from himself to **Dave Bennett** (MP for Hamilton East since 2005). Bennett owns two dairy farms in the Waikato. He was a former president of Young Farmers. He is also the Chair of Parliament's Primary Production select committee.

*Elsewhere, **Parmjeet Parmar** (list MP) retains her Research, Science & Innovation spokesperson role.*

NZGSTA Conference October 2020 – Queenstown



The NZGSTA Executive Council has confirmed that the 2020 Annual conference will take place in Queenstown from 21 to 22 October, as planned.

At the Crowne Plaza (directly opposite the steamer wharf), we will have excellent meeting facilities and a stimulating conference atmosphere in this fabulous high country lakes location.

As usual, the Conference will kick off with business group meetings and attendees will get the latest information on their areas of interest. The Annual General Meeting will take place on 21 October.

We will also feature a range of informative speakers who will address important strategic issues for seed sector for the coming months and years.

Conference attendees will also enjoy a convivial atmosphere of professional networking and showcasing by key industry suppliers.

We will also have our popular gala dinner at a prestigious location and a unique optional post-Conference tour is available.

We hope that you will join us again at this key event for the NZ seed trade. You can reserve your place and register via the Conference website at:

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<https://www.nzgsta.co.nz/nzgsta-conference-2020/>

Walter Peak Station - Field Trip - join us this on this exciting field trip this year. Travell by HMS Earnslaw from Queenstown, across Lake Wakatipu, Enjoy a delicious BBQ Lunch then a tour around the farm before returning to Queenstown.

Registration on our conference registration form. Normally at this time of the year this tour would be fully booked but we have secured an allocation for our conference delegates.

[New Member - Southern Seed Technology Ltd](#)

The Association is the national trade body comprising around 80 member companies. Its members are involved in a range of activities including: research and development, seed production, seed multiplication, seed processing and sales and marketing.

The Association is working to foster the best business environment for our grain and seed industry members and is pleased to announce the following company has applied to join the NZGSTA.

All members are being notified of this application here through this newsletter. If you have any reason as to why Southern Seed Technology Ltd should not be a member please contact us now.

[Seeds of Success - a History of the Association](#)



"Seeds of Success" (now discounted) – a history of the Association written by Dave McKinnon is available for purchase from the Association.

You can place orders on the [NZGSTA site](#) from \$20.00 per book.

The book is ideal as a gift to domestic and overseas customers, and for anyone interested in the history of the trade.

[Meeting Schedule of NZGSTA Executive Council for 2020](#)

to be held at the Seed Industry Office unless otherwise stated:

- 12.00pm, 20 Oct 2020 Queenstown

Please advise Thomas Chin of any matters you wish to have discussed at a meeting.

Phone: 03 349 8430

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