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(Revision of Ext. Cir. 461)

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April 1946

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REGULATIONS FOR STRAWBERRY-PLANT CERTIFICATION

by

R. Ralph Clark, Asst. Extension Horticulturist
S. M. Zeller, Plant Pathologist

Purpose

Oregon strawberry-plant certification leads to the production of vigorous planting stock that is true to name and will carry a minimum of virus diseases and destructive insect pests. Vigorous disease-free plants are essential to profitable production of commercial strawberries in Oregon.

The use by growers of plants free of virus diseases for strawberry-plant propagation and the removal from the plant nurseries during the growing season of plants affected with virus diseases has resulted in reducing yellows and crinkle in commercial strawberry plantings in Oregon. Virus diseases probably cannot be entirely eliminated, but losses from these diseases can be held to a minimum by planting new fields with plants from nurseries where the diseased plants have been removed by constant selection and roguing.

Eligibility for Certification

Any Oregon grower who agrees to abide by these rules for strawberry-plant certification as herein provided is eligible for participation. Fields entered for certification must be planted from Oregon Blue Tag planting stock certified the previous season. Fields which were certified the previous year will also be accepted. Exceptions may be made for desirable planting stock produced the previous year under the observation of the inspection service. Fractional parts of strawberry fields cannot be entered for certification.

The right is reserved to return the fee and cancel the certification application of any grower who does not adhere to the rules, or of any grower who lives in an inaccessible district or location where the time expense required in making inspection would be excessive.

When cultural conditions of any field entered for certification are such that proper inspection is not possible, or if for other reasons certification of the field is found undesirable the field will be rejected.

Certification of strawberry plants under this plan will not be made on farms where plants grown by other growers are bought, sold, or packed for shipment.

Applications for Strawberry-Plant Certification

Applications for strawberry-plant certification must be made on or before May 1 of each year through the local county agent on blanks furnished by the county agent.

The Oregon State College Extension Service has charge of strawberry-plant certification. Field inspection work will be in charge of the Extension Horticulturist and the Extension Plant Pathologist and Entomologist. All applications taken by the county agent for plant certification should be promptly forwarded to the Agricultural Extension Service, Corvallis, Oregon on or before May first each year so that arrangements can be made for field inspections.

Certification Fees

An acreage fee of \$7.00 will be charged for the first acre or less and \$3.00 for each additional acre or fraction thereof entered for certification. The acreage fee must accompany the application for certification.

A tagging fee of 5 cents per package will be charged to cover cost of tagging service on plants packed for delivery to purchasers who desire certification tags attached. Not more than 1000 plants should be placed in a single package.

Refunds of Fees

When withdrawals are filed before inspections are made or before expense is incurred by the Extension Service, refunds will be made on advanced certification fees.

When fields are rejected on the first inspection, all fees paid will be refunded except \$2.00. Fees on fields rejected on the second inspection will be refunded above \$4.00. The amounts retained will be applied to expenses incident to the inspection service already performed.

Requirements for Strawberry-Plant Certification

1. Only varieties of commercial importance and established merit will be accepted for certification.
2. Strawberry fields entered for plant certification must have their origin in Oregon Blue Tag certified stocks produced the previous season. Evidence of the origin of such stocks must be furnished. For this purpose the grower should retain the blue tags from his planting stock. (See exceptions under "Eligibility for Certification.")
3. Fields entered for certification must not be immediately adjacent to other strawberry plantings because of danger of disease spread.

4. Strawberry fields entered for certification must be planted in hills to allow easy roguing. Plantings entered for certification must receive standard care and treatment. Weeds may promote spread of disease, and they do interfere with inspection. Weedy fields are subject to rejection.

5. All low-yielding, diseased, or abnormal plants must be dug out and removed to considerable distance from the field or burned. The grower should make inspection trips through the plant nursery at 10-day or two-week intervals during the spring and early summer at which time the weak and diseased plants are removed from the field. This is the best insurance to pass inspection.

6. Insect pests are to be controlled by approved methods.

7. Plantings known to have Red Stele disease will not be certified.

8. Fields showing more than 5 percent virus and other serious diseases at any field inspection will be rejected. On the last inspection fields must show not more than 1% infection, all of which should be rogued.

9. Inspections will be made during May and June and again in the fall before any plants are dug. Three or more inspections are usually required.

10. If other fields of strawberries are maintained on farms where strawberry plantings are entered for certification, the runners in such fields shall be cut off during the season for runner development.

11. Certified plants are to be placed in new or clean crates.

12. Only vigorous plants with well-developed roots will be tagged as "certified" or "blue tag" stock.

13. "Certified" stock will be tagged by a representative of the Extension Service. Growers will be expected to group their orders so that tagging will not become a burdensome detail.

14. The responsibility of the certification service ends with the last field inspection. The grower must assume all responsibility attending the grading, sale, distribution, storage, and guarantees of the certified strawberry plants which he produces.

15. Strawberry planting stock regularly entered for certification which does not quite meet the requirements for "certified" grade but has no more than 5% virus at any inspection may at the discretion of the inspectors be classed as "selected" planting stock and labeled for shipment with a special red tag. Such selected stock will be high quality commercial planting stock.

16. The certification of strawberry planting stock as herein provided does not take the place of inspections required by the State Laws of Oregon.

Strawberry plant certification is regulated by Oregon Laws, 1937, Chapter 426, and the term "certified" must not be used in connection with the sale and distribution of strawberry planting stock which is not grown in conformance with the regulations herein described.

Comments on locations for plant production.

In the course of making strawberry-plant inspections, it has been observed that growers with plants located on upland soils with exposures to winds or with air drainage have had less trouble from virus disease. Lowland plantings or plantings near underbrush or weeds or both have at times shown rapid spread of viruses. Strawberry plantings adjacent to weedy fence rows have shown increases of crinkle disease, while plants in the centers of such fields had only the normal amount of crinkle. Well-drained, light soils are desirable for strawberry-plant production. Heavy soils interfere with plant harvest.

The sandy-like soils of the northern Oregon coast section have produced excellent certified planting stock. Virus disease-control has appeared to be less of a problem in this area because it is free of the yellows disease.

It is becoming more and more evident that strawberry plantings made within serious yellows-infection areas of the Willamette Valley cannot usually pass certification requirements. The disease spreads too rapidly.

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF
STRAWBERRY PLANTING STOCK IN OREGON

Revised April, 1946

Instructions: Growers desiring "certification" of strawberry plants must fill out and sign this application blank and submit it with the acreage fees to the local county agent on or before May 1 each year.

County agents are directed to remit acreage fees to the Extension Service, Room 111, Agriculture Hall, Corvallis.

County agents should promptly send all applications direct to the Extension Horticulturist.

To the Oregon State Agricultural College

Care of Count Agent _____

County _____ Address _____

I apply for inspection of _____ acres of strawberry plants for certification under the rules set forth for the production of strawberry planting stock in accordance with Oregon Laws, 1937, Chapter 426.

Varieties entered

Acres

Give location of field: _____

The original planting stock used for the above fields was grown

by _____

I enclose the acreage fee, \$_____ made payable to Oregon State College, Corvallis, Oregon. I agree to abide by the rules set forth for strawberry certification.

I agree that the responsibility of the certification service shall end with the last field inspection made on my strawberry field which I have entered for certification. I agree to sign personally the guarantee on all certification tags which are placed on certified strawberry planting stock sold as such from my field or fields.

Grower's name _____ County _____

Address _____

Date _____.