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REGULATIONS FOR STRAWBERRY PLANT CERTIFICATION

By

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S. M. Zeller, Plant Pathologist

Federal Cooperative Extension Service
Oregon State College
Corvallis

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics

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Oregon State College and United States Department of Agriculture, Cooperating

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REGULATIONS FOR STRAWBERRY PLANT CERTIFICATION

By

O. T. McWhorter, Extension Horticulturist
S. M. Zeller, Plant PathologistPurpose

The production of disease-free strawberry planting stock by following a plan of vigorous selection and roguing of growing nursery stock has resulted in holding crinkle disease under control in Oregon. There is little possibility that the crinkle disease of the strawberry will ever be entirely eliminated, but growers have reduced their losses from this disease to a minimum by using planting stock from plant nurseries where the diseased plants have been removed by constant selection and roguing.

The plans for certification and improvement are offered as a means to the production of vigorous planting stock true to name and carrying a minimum of degenerative diseases and destructive insect pests. The use of vigorous disease-free strawberry planting stock is one necessary step in the profitable production of strawberries.

Eligibility

Any Oregon grower agreeing to abide by the rules of plant certification as herein provided is eligible for participation in strawberry plant improvement or plant certification. Certification of strawberry plants under this plan will not be made on farms where plants of other growers are bought, sold or packed for shipment.

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 and expense required in making inspection would be excessive.

Fees will be returned and application canceled if 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.

Application

Applications for strawberry plant certification must be made through the local county agent on blanks furnished by the county agent. Said application must be made on or before April 15 of each year to the county agricultural agent of the county wherein the grower resides.

No charge will be made for strawberry plant improvement work carried on by growers as outlined in Extension Circular 307, "Plan For Producing High-Grade Strawberry Planting Stock." For those growers who complete plant improvement and apply for certification, a fee of \$7.00 will be charged for the first acre or less and \$3.00 for each additional acre or fraction thereof.

One-half of the fee must accompany the application for certification. The remainder must be paid before the final certification date.

Fractional parts of strawberry fields cannot be entered for certification.

Refunds

Refunds of certification fees advanced will be made when withdrawals are filed before inspections are made or expense is incurred by the Extension Service.

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 used to meet 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 selected or certified stocks. Evidence of the origin of such stocks must be furnished.
3. Fields entered for certification must not be immediately adjacent to other strawberry plantings.
4. Strawberry fields entered for certification must be planted on the hill system to allow easy roguing. Plantings entered for certification must receive standard care and treatment.
5. All low yielding, diseased, or abnormal plants must be rogued out and removed from the field. The grower should make inspection trips through the plant nursery at ten-day or two-week intervals during the spring and early summer at which time the weak and diseased plants are removed from the field.
6. Insect pests are to be controlled by approved methods.
7. Fields showing more than five percent virous and other serious diseases at any field inspection will be rejected.
8. Inspections will be made during the fruiting period and again in the fall before any plants are dug.
9. 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 or such runner plants are to be left undug until after certified plants have been removed from the farm.
10. Plants are to be placed in new or clean crates.

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

12. "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.

13. The responsibility of the certification service ends with the last field inspection. The grower must assume all responsibility attending the grading, sale, distribution, and guarantees of the improved or certified strawberry planting stock which he produces.

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

15. Strawberry planting stock regularly entered for certification which does not quite meet the requirements for "certified" grade may at the discretion of the inspectors be classed "selected" planting stock and labeled for shipment with a special red tag. Such selected stock will be high quality commercial planting stock.

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

Comment 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 air drainage have had better success controlling crinkle disease. Lowland plantings or plantings near underbrush or weeds or both have at times shown rapid spread of crinkle. Strawberry plantings adjacent to weedy fence rows have had increased crinkle disease, while plants in the centers of such fields have had only the normal amount of crinkle.

17. 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.

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION OF
STRAWBERRY PLANTING STOCK

Growers desiring "certification" of strawberry plants must
fill out and sign this application blank.

To the Oregon State Agricultural College

Care of County Agent _____

County _____ Address _____

I hereby 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.

List here variety or varieties entered for certification:

| <u>Variety</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
|----------------|--------------|
| _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ |

The original planting stock used for the above fields was
grown by _____

I enclose \$ _____ entrance fee made payable to the
Extension Service, Corvallis, Oregon. I agree to abide by the rules
set forth for strawberry plant 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 further-
more agree to sign personally all certification tags which are
placed on certified strawberry planting stock sold as such from my
field or fields. I have read the rules applying to certification
of strawberry planting stock.

Grower's Name _____ County _____

Address _____

Date _____