

# The South African Seed Certification Scheme

## ANNEXURE 1

### REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO ONION (*Allium cepa* L.)

#### 1 Field requirements

A field may be registered as a unit only if no plants of any *Allium* spp. have been established thereon for seed production or otherwise during the growing season preceding the registration thereof.

#### 2 Planting requirements

- 2.1 Plants shall be established in rows on a unit.
- 2.2 Gap-filling in rows is not permissible.
- 2.3 In the case of the intended production of seed of a hybrid variety -
- 2.3.1 the plants of the seed parent and those of the pollen parent shall be established in separate rows; and
- 2.3.2 rows containing plants of the pollen parent shall be clearly marked.
- 2.4 If it is intended to produce seed by the seed-to-seed method, at least 500 plants of the variety concerned shall be established specially with a view to evaluating the bulbs thereof before the seed concerned is presented for certification.

#### 3 Isolation requirements

- 3.1 Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3.3 and 3.4, a unit shall be surrounded by an isolation area which -
  - 3.1.1 in the case of the intended production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed of -
    - 3.1.1.1 an open-pollinated variety, is at least 2 000 metres wide; and
    - 3.1.1.2 a hybrid variety, is at least 3 000 metres wide; and
  - 3.1.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed of -
    - 3.1.2.1 an open-pollinated variety, is at least 1 000 metres wide; and
    - 3.1.2.2 a hybrid variety, at least 1500 metres wide.
  - 3.1.3 in the case of the intended production of white and straw-coloured onion varieties, the isolation distance to red onions, be at least 5000 meters wide: Provided that the isolation areas between the different red onion varieties shall apply as indicated in paragraphs 3.1.1 and 3.1.2.
  - 3.1.4 in the case of white onions which have been established in the proximity of straw-coloured onions and vice versa, at least 3 000 meters wide.
- 3.2 Such isolation area shall be free from plants of any other *Allium* spp. or onion variety which flower at the same time as the plants on the unit concerned, unless -
  - 3.2.1 in the case of the intended production of basic seed, they have been established from certified pre-basic seed of the same variety; and
  - 3.2.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed they have been established from certified pre-basic seed or basic seed of the same variety; and
  - 3.2.3 in the case of the intended production of 2nd generation certified seed, they have been established from 1st generation certified pre-basic seed or basic seed of the same variety.
- 3.3 Plants of different seed parents of a hybrid variety may be established on adjoining units if -
  - 3.3.1 a common pollen parent is used; and
  - 3.3.2 a distance of at least five metres wide, which is free from plants of the seed parents concerned, is maintained between the units concerned.

#### 4 Requirements for plants

- 4.1 Subject to the provisions of paragraph 4.2, the number of deviating plants and bulbs on a unit shall -
  - 4.1.1 in the case of the intended production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed, not exceed 0,2 percent; and
  - 4.1.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed, not exceed 0,5 percent.
- 4.2 If male sterility is used in the seed parent of a hybrid variety -
  - 4.2.1 the number of deviating pollen-shedding plants of the pollen parent on a unit shall -
    - 4.2.1.1 in the case of the intended production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed, not exceed 0,2 percent of the plants of the pollen parent at the stage at which 2,0 percent or more of the plants of the seed parent have pollen susceptible flowers; and
    - 4.2.1.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed not exceed 0,5 percent of the plants of the pollen parent at the stage at which 5,0 percent or more of the plants of the seed parent have pollen-susceptible flowers;

- 4.2.2 the number of deviating plants of the seed parent on a unit shall –
- 4.2.2.1 in the case of the intended production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed, not exceed 0,5 percent of the of the plants of the seed parent; and
- 4.2.2.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed not exceed 1,0 percent of the plants of the seed parent; and
- 4.2.3 the number of pollen-shedding plants of the seed parent on a unit shall -
- 4.2.3.1 in the case of the intended production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed, not exceed 0,5 percent of the plants of the seed parent; and
- 4.2.3.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed not exceed 2,0 percent of the plants of the seed parent.

## **5 Inspection requirements**

- 5.1 Plants and bulbs which were established on a unit with a view to obtaining bulbs to be used for the production of seed shall be inspected during the mature stage thereof.
- 5.2 Such bulbs shall be inspected not more than 30 days before they are established on a unit and the number of deviated bulbs shall -
- 5.2.1 in the case of the intended production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed, not to exceed 0,2 percent; and
- 5.2.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed, not to exceed 0,5 percent.
- 5.3 Plants which are established on a unit from such bulbs shall be inspected -
- 5.3.1 before the flowering stage thereof;
- 5.3.2 during the flowering stage thereof; and
- 5.3.3 during the full seed stage thereof; and
- 5.3.4 in the case of a hybrid variety, after the seed heads of the plants of the pollen parent have been removed.
- 5.4 If plants of a hybrid variety have been established on a unit -
- 5.4.1 the seed grower concerned shall notify the authorised person at least 10 days prior to the date on which -
- 5.4.1.1 the plants of the seed parent are expected to start flowering; and
- 5.4.1.2 the seed heads of the pollen parent are to be removed; and
- 5.4.2 the seed of the plants of the seed parent may not be harvested before the inspection referred to in paragraph 5.3.4 has been carried out.

## **6 Physical requirements**

- Seed shall -
- 6.1 have a germination percentage of at least 80;
- 6.2 have at least 98,0 percent pure seed; and
- 6.3 not contain more than -
- 6.3.1 0,1 percent other seed; and
- 6.3.2 2,0 percent other material.
- 6.3.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 6.3.1, not more than one seed of any of the restricted weed seed species may occur in an ISTA working sample for the determination of other seed by number of the specie being tested.