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REGULATIONS FOR STRAWBERRY PLANT CERTIFICATION

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Extension Circular 461  
(Revision of Ext. Cir. 349)

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August 1945

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REGULATIONS FOR STRAWBERRY PLANT CERTIFICATION

by

O. T. McWhorter, Extension Horticulturist  
S. M. Zeller, Plant Pathologist  
R. E. Rieder, Extension Pathologist

Purpose

The Oregon strawberry plant certification project provides plans for the production of vigorous strawberry planting stock that is true to name and will carry a minimum of virus diseases and destructive insect pests. The planting of vigorous disease-free strawberry plants is a very necessary step in the profitable production of commercial strawberries in Oregon.

The use by growers of strawberry 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" diseases in commercial strawberry plantings in Oregon. Virus diseases of the strawberry probably cannot be 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 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 and 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.

Note: The Oregon State College Extension Service will have 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 for plant certification should be promptly forwarded to the Extension Horticulturist, Corvallis, Oregon on or before May first each year so that arrangements can be made for field inspections.

#### 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.

#### 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. (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.

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

7. Fields showing more than 5 percent virus and other serious diseases at any field inspection will be rejected.

8. 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.

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. Certified 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, storage, and guarantees of the certified strawberry plants which he produces.

14. 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 as "selected" planting stock and labeled for shipment with a special red tag. Such selected stock will be high quality commercial planting stock.

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

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

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 crinkle. 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, upland soils of a porous nature 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.

17. 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.

18. 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 IN OREGON

Revised July 1, 1945

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 County 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 \_\_\_\_\_.