

WSR 24-17-104

EXPEDITED RULES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

[Filed August 19, 2024, 8:52 a.m.]

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Chapter 16-324 WAC, Certification of seed potatoes.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: In response to a petition for rule making, the department of agriculture (department) is proposing to clarify current rule language by replacing all gender-specific pronouns with modern gender-inclusive pronouns.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: RCW 43.01.160 requires state agencies to use gender-neutral terms in rules unless a specification of gender is intended. Replacing gender-specific terminology supports the department's commitment to integrate inclusive policies and procedures as outlined in the department's 22-25 strategic plan.

Gender-inclusive pronouns are pronouns that are not specifically gendered and can be utilized when referring to each other in the third person. They are linguistic tools that we use to refer to people. Using gender-neutral pronouns can help create a more inclusive and welcoming environment and show respect for people's gender identities.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 15.14.015, 43.01.160.

Statute Being Implemented: Chapter 15.14 RCW.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: Skye Theriot, private.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting, Implementation, and Enforcement: Gloriann Robinson, 1111 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA, 360-902-1802.

This notice meets the following criteria to use the expedited adoption process for these rules:

Corrects typographical errors, makes address or name changes, or clarifies language of a rule without changing its effect.

Explanation of the Reason the Agency Believes the Expedited Rule-Making Process is Appropriate: The amendments in this proposal meet the criteria for expedited rule making specified in RCW 34.05.353 (1)(c) by clarifying the rule, without changing its effect, by replacing gender-specific pronouns with gender-inclusive pronouns.

NOTICE

THIS RULE IS BEING PROPOSED UNDER AN EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS THAT WILL ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR THE AGENCY TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS, PREPARE A SMALL BUSINESS ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT, OR PROVIDE RESPONSES TO THE CRITERIA FOR A SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE RULE. IF YOU OBJECT TO THIS USE OF THE EXPEDITED RULE-MAKING PROCESS, YOU MUST EXPRESS YOUR OBJECTIONS IN WRITING AND THEY MUST BE SENT TO Gloriann Robinson, Rules Coordinator, Washington State Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, WA 98504-2560, phone 360-902-1802, fax 360-902-2092, email wsdarulescomments@agr.wa.gov, AND RECEIVED BY October 22, 2024.

August 19, 2024  
Jason Ferrante  
Deputy Director

## OTS-5748.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 15-01-042, filed 12/9/14, effective 1/9/15)

**WAC 16-324-361 Definitions.** "Certification" means that the lot of seed potatoes was inspected and meets the requirements of this chapter.

"Cull" means any lot of potatoes rejected for certification for any reason.

"Department" means the department of agriculture of the state of Washington.

"Director" means the director of the department of agriculture or (~~his/her~~) their duly appointed representative.

"Disease tested" means tested for and found free of all of the following diseases: Potato virus A (PVA), potato virus M (PVM), potato virus S (PVS), potato virus X (PVX), potato virus Y (PVY), potato leafroll virus (PLRV), potato mop top virus (PMTV), potato spindle tuber viroid (spindle tuber), *Erwinia carotovora* ssp. *carotovora* (soft rot), *Erwinia carotovora* ssp. *atroseptica* (black leg) and *Clavibacter michiganense* spp. *sepedonicus* (ring rot).

"ELISA testing" means laboratory testing by enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay or other equivalent methodologies.

"Micropropagated" means potato stock propagated using aseptic laboratory techniques and culture media to promote plant tissue growth.

"Microtubers" means tubers produced in vitro by a micropropagated plant or plantlet.

"Minitubers" means tubers produced under controlled greenhouse conditions.

"Nematode" means plant parasitic nematodes capable of infesting potatoes, including but not limited to the genus *Meloidogyne*.

"Nuclear stock" means plantlets, microtubers, minitubers, or seed potatoes produced from prenuclear stock, and grown in the field for the first time.

"Plot" means a seed potato planting that is 0.25 acre or less in size.

"Powdery scab" means the disease caused by the fungus *Spongospora subterranea*.

"Prenuclear" means micropropagated plants or tubers and plants or minitubers produced in a greenhouse.

"Quarantine pest" means a pest of potential economic importance and not yet present in the state, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled.

"Recertification" means the process of certifying a seed lot that was certified the previous year.

"Rogue" means removing diseased or undesirable plants, including all associated plant parts, from a seed potato field.

"Seed lot" means a field, in whole or in part, or a group of fields producing seed potatoes, or the potato tubers harvested from a seed potato field.

"Seed potato farm" means a separate seed potato enterprise, including all land, equipment, storages and all facilities used to produce only certified seed potatoes.

"Seed potatoes" means vegetatively propagated tubers used for potato production.

"Seed source" means seed potatoes produced by an individual seed potato farm within a particular seed production area.

"Trace" means a barely perceivable indication of plant disease that amounts to less than 0.001 percent of sample.

"Tolerance" means the maximum acceptable percentage of potato plants or tubers that is diseased, infected by plant pests, defective or off-type based on visual inspection or laboratory testing by the director or other authorized person.

"Unit method" means a method of planting in which cut seed pieces from one tuber are dropped consecutively in a row, or in which all tubers from one plant are dropped consecutively in a row.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 13-12-014, filed 5/24/13, effective 6/24/13)

**WAC 16-324-385 Production requirements.** (1) A grower may not recertify any seed lots, except nuclear, if ring rot has been detected on (~~his or her~~) their seed potato farm during the previous two years. Nuclear seed potatoes may be recertified by the original grower if laboratory testing of the seed by a laboratory approved by the department shows negative results for ring rot.

(2) Prenuclear class.

(a) Prenuclear seed lots must be derived from disease tested micropropagated plants. All testing methods and laboratories must be approved by the department.

(b) A minimum of one percent (and not less than (~~twenty~~) 20 samples) of prenuclear seed produced in a greenhouse must be tested and found free of potato virus X (PVX), potato virus Y (PVY), potato virus S (PVS), potato leafroll virus (PLRV), *Erwinia carotovora* ssp. *carotovora* (soft rot), *Erwinia carotovora* ssp. *atroseptica* (black leg), and *Clavibacter michiganense* ssp. *sepedonicus* (ring rot).

(c) The department will inspect all facilities used in the production of prenuclear class seed potatoes on a periodic basis. Department approval is necessary in order to utilize these facilities.

(3) Nuclear class.

(a) Nuclear class seed potatoes must be propagated entirely from prenuclear plants.

(b) Each nuclear class seed lot must be distinctly separated in storage and in the field.

(c) If a ground rig is used for spraying, wide enough spacing between rows must be left, so that tires will not touch plants during the growing season.

(d) Growers must plant cut seed and single drop seed separately, with single drop seed identified.

(4) Generations 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

(a) Growers must leave a distinct separation between lots of seed potatoes from different classes. The same separation must be left between different varieties, unless the varieties are readily distinguishable by visual observation. The separation must consist of one of the following:

(i) A strip of land at least six feet in width, that is unplanted or planted with another crop; or

(ii) Visible markers such as flags in every corner of the lot, and also at intervals not to exceed (~~one hundred~~) 100 yards.

(b) When more than one lot of seed potatoes is planted in the same field, growers must stake or mark the identity of each lot.