

**RULES
OF
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PLANT INDUSTRIES**

**CHAPTER 0080-6-3
SWEET POTATO CERTIFICATION**

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0080-6-3-.01 CERTIFICATION. No sweet potato roots or tubers, vines, cuttings, draws, plants or slips shall be sold, offered for sale, held, or stored as certified stock unless they shall have been certified as being essentially free of insect pests and/or plant diseases by the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, or by a legally constituted agency designated for such purpose in other states, territories or countries. The requirements for certification of sweet potato roots or tubers, or vines, plants, cuttings, draws or slips in the State of Tennessee are as follows:

- (1) (a) All persons desiring certification of sweet potatoes shall make application to the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture as provided below.
 1. Applicants requesting certification beginning with certified bedding stock shall make application on or before February 15 of each calendar year.
 2. Applicants requesting certification beginning with certified plants, slips, vines or draws shall make application as soon as practicable, but at least two (2) weeks prior to planting date.
- (b) Only fields set from certified parent stock will be eligible for certification. Fields offered for certification may be from plants produced by the applicant from an approved certified seed source, or from certified plants secured from certified plant producers.
- (c) For bedding purposes only certified seed stock from an approved source will be eligible for certification. Applicants shall be required to furnish evidence that the seed potatoes used were, in fact, secured, from such approved source.
- (d) All seed used for bedding stock must be culled and treated at bedding time with an approved fungicide, under the supervision of a representative of the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology.
- (e) The plant beds shall be constructed of new material, provided that old bedding sites or materials may be used if they are thoroughly treated with an approved disinfectant. An old soil shall be removed from plant beds and replaced with new soil each year, provided that old soil may be used if it is thoroughly sterilized, and provided further, that the methods and materials used meet with the approval of the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology or his representative.

(Rule 0080-6-3-.01, continued)

- (f) Sweet potato fields offered for certification shall be on soil in which sweet potatoes have not been grown for a period of five (5) years, and which has not been subjected to drainage from soil previously contaminated with disease.
- (g) Fields offered for certification must be well cultivated and maintained essentially free of weeds and grasses. Fields not so maintained may be refused certification.
- (h) Fields offered for certification shall have no mixture of varieties, provided, that any off-variety plants occurring in a field may be removed by the grower. If such off-variety plants, and roots or tubers, are satisfactorily eliminated, the field may be eligible for certification.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. **Administrative History:** Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.02 REQUIREMENTS. Plantings of sweet potatoes offered for certification must be maintained essentially free of insect pests and plant diseases. Applicants for certification of sweet potatoes may be re-required to spray and/or dust potato plantings with an insecticide and/or fungicide at such intervals and using such formulations and quantities of materials as shall be prescribed by the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology, when in his opinion circumstances or conditions warrant such measures. It shall be the responsibility of the grower to keep records of such insecticidal and/or fungicidal applications and to furnish this information to the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology or his representative on request.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. **Administrative History:** Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.03 SEPARATION OF FIELDS. Fields offered for certification shall be separated from non-certified potato fields by a distance of at least 500 feet.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. **Administrative History:** Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.04 STORAGE. Storage: Seed for certification shall be stored in approved storage houses that have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to storage. Only potatoes eligible for certification may be stored in the house, provided, however, that other potatoes may be stored in the same building, subject to prior approval of the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology and if the certified and non-certified potatoes are kept separate and apart by a solid wall or partition of wood, masonry or similar construction. All potatoes offered for certification shall be stored in boxes, crates, hampers or similar types of containers.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. **Administrative History:** Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.05 MINIMUM INSPECTIONS. The following minimum inspections shall be made each year with additional inspections, should circumstances warrant such action:

- (1) (a) Inspection of bedding stock and bedding site at time potatoes are to be bedded, and supervision of fungicidal treatment by a representative of the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology. It shall be the responsibility of the grower to notify the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology, or his representative, of the date that bedding is to begin. Notice shall be given as soon as practicable, but at least 48 hours prior to time bedding is to commence.
- (b) At least two (2) inspections of the plant beds shall be made, beginning at about the time the first plants are to be removed from beds.
- (c) Fields offered for certification shall be inspected at least twice each year during the growing season for detection of field diseases. One inspection is to be made in the early part of the growing season, with a second inspection to be completed before digging time.

(Rule 0080-6-3-.05, continued)

- (d) An inspection of seed potatoes shall be made during the storage period, primarily for the detection of Black Rot, Internal Cork, storage rots and other diseases and insects.

The owner of potatoes shall be required to furnish facilities, such as adequate lighting, labor for handling crates etc. for their inspection.

Representative samples from various varieties and areas of the storage house shall be inspected.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. *Administrative History:* Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.06 TOLERANCES. Sweet potatoes certified must not exceed the following tolerances on any one inspection or on a combination of all inspections:

- (1) (a) Fusarium Wilt (Stem Rot) - 1/10 of one per cent.
(b) Black Rot - 1/10 of one per cent.
(c) Charcoal Rot and other storage rots - 2% if properly culled.
(d) Internal Cork - none.
(e) Mosaic - none.
(f) Certification may be denied for seriously damaging infestations by other diseases or pests, such as scurf, nematodes, wireworms, flea beetles or other diseases or insect pests.
(g) Not limited by the above, any seriously injurious plant pest or disease appreciably damaging to sweet potatoes or capable of being spread or transmitted to new areas by the movement of sweet potato roots or tubers, or vines, plants, slips or draws.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. *Administrative History:* Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.07 CERTIFIED STOCK. Applicants for certification shall be required to grow and store only certified stock, Provided, however, that both certified and non-certified stock may be grown and stored if the grower shall have first secured a prior exemption from this requirement from the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology. Such exemptions shall be granted only under such conditions and precautions as may be prescribed by the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. *Administrative History:* Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.08 CERTIFICATE TAPE. All certified seed sweet potatoes when shipped, sold, delivered or transported for sale or delivery in this State shall have affixed to each package, or container, a tag which shall bear a copy of the valid certificate of inspection covering such products. All sweet potato plants, vines, slips, cuttings or draws sold, Shipped, delivered or transported for sale, in the State of Tennessee must be tied in bundles of 100 with valid certificate tape of the current year. Each package, crate or container must have attached a valid sweet potato plant certificate. Tape will be furnished at cost to those growers that have met all qualifications for certification.

Tags shall expire on the same date as the certificates under which they are printed unless such certificates shall be suspended or revoked prior to that date. In case of suspension or revocation all tags and certificates shall be immediately surrendered to the Director of Entomology and Plant Pathology or his representative. Use of tags beyond their expiration date or on products not covered by the certificate shall be a violation of these regulations.

(Rule 0080-6-3-.08, continued)

Authority: T.C.A. §4-3-518. *Administrative History:* Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.09 SUSPENSION OF CERTIFICATES. All certificates issued under these regulations may be immediately suspended or revoked when:

- (1) (a) Stock covered by the certificate is determined to be in a non-certifiable status in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.
- (b) Certificate tags or tape are misused, transferred, sold, loaned, used on stock not covered by the certificate, or otherwise handled or used in violation of these regulations.
- (c) Any of the provisions of the Tennessee Plant Pest Act of 19.5.5 (Sec. 4-3-515 through 43-526, as amended, of the Tennessee Code Annotated), or any of the regulations promulgated thereunder are violated by the holder of said certificate, or when used in violation of any applicable quarantines.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. *Administrative History:* Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.10 PENALTIES. Any person who shall violate any provision or requirement of these regulations shall be liable to the penalties prescribed in Section 43-526 of the Tennessee Code Annotated.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. *Administrative History:* Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.

0080-6-3-.11 REVOCATION OF RULES. All rules and regulations heretofore promulgated on this subject are hereby rescinded, revoked and suspended.

Authority: T.C.A. §43-518. *Administrative History:* Original Rule certified June 5, 1974.