Field Inspection Services

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) provides field inspection services for the international and interstate marketing of Oregon agricultural crops. Many foreign countries require phytosanitary certificates attesting that fields from which a crop was produced were officially inspected during the growing season and found free from certain diseases or pests. Without official inspections, these crops would not be eligible for a Federal Phytosanitary Certificate and could not legally be exported to many state or international markets.

ODA Field Inspection Services are entirely voluntary; companies and growers are requesting assistance to meet the phytosanitary requirements for their international customers. As the USDA’s official cooperator in Oregon, the ODA provides this service to growers and seed companies upon request. There are fees associated with these services. Please visit our website to learn more. Applications should be submitted to the department for crops intended for export.

Market Access & Certification

Providing quality services that ensure Oregon commodities meet or exceed requirements of the marketplace.

Field inspections for plant diseases and other phytosanitary concerns

The ODA provides field inspection services for the international marketing, as well as interstate trade, of Oregon seed and specialty crops. All inspections are done to meet the import requirements of Oregon’s customers. Services provided include the inspection of seed fields for the presence of seed-borne diseases, mint fields for the disease Verticillium wilt, potato fields for the disease late blight (caused by *Phytophthora infestans*), and *Allium* fields for the disease white rot (caused by *Sclerotium cepivorum*).

**Seed field inspections**

At the request of seed companies, ODA inspectors survey over 30 different crops for diseases and pests that can be carried with seed. Field inspections start in the spring with crops like cabbage and peas and continue throughout summer with successive crops such as spinach, carrots, radish, beans and corn. In 2013, the ODA inspected 1,049 seed fields encompassing 21,469 acres. (OAR 603-056-0315)

**Potato field inspections for late blight**

Fresh potatoes going to Taiwan require a field inspection for late blight. The ODA inspects potato fields as close to harvest as possible, but also when plants are still green and growing. Late blight is not commonly found in Oregon, but when found in a field those tubers would be barred from export.

**Allium field inspections for white rot**

White rot is a devastating disease of all *Allium* crops including onion, garlic, chive, leek, shallot and ornamental *Allium* species. The ODA inspected approximately 1,500 acres of garlic in 2013. Some fields were contaminated with white rot and kept from the seed market. Garlic that passes inspection is planted to production fields in Oregon or California. Participation by *Allium* seed companies and seed growers in the certification program is voluntary. (OAR 603-052-0347)

**Mint field inspection for Verticillium wilt**

Verticillium wilt is a significant disease of mint, as well as many other crops. Clean planting stock is critical for mint field establishment. The ODA will inspect mint fields that do not qualify for OSU certification in Klamath County as established under a control area order, OAR 603-052-0328.