



**Peace Region Forage Seed Association
Box 685
Taylor, BC V0C 2K0**

May 31, 2012

Peace Region Forage Seed Association Position on Roundup Ready Alfalfa

The general membership of the Peace Region Forage Seed Association strongly opposes the introduction of genetically engineered alfalfa into Canada. The association, representing virtually all of the growers and marketers of seed for forage grasses and legumes in the BC and Alberta Peace region, has a major concern that international market opportunities may be greatly reduced if such GMO crops are allowed to grow in the Peace Region of Alberta and British Columbia. The concern is not only that the markets for forage grasses and legumes will be damaged, but also that export markets of such products as hay and alfalfa pellets will be reduced. Members fear that cross pollination and mixing of the GMO trait in normal handling would result in disqualification of their products for the GMO-free requirements of many of their key customers.

POSITION STATEMENT of FORAGE SEED CANADA INC.

Position Statement on Recombinant DNA Technology and Subsequent Genetically Engineered (GE) Alfalfa and GE Forage Seeds including Roundup Ready™ Alfalfa for

**Forage Seed Canada Inc.
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Whereas it is the position of Forage Seed Canada Inc. that the CFIA has failed to do a complete due diligence assessment in the approval of GE alfalfa for release into Canada, by neglecting to factor in potential market losses or market impact by allowing GE traits in alfalfa into Canada before widespread market acceptance;

Therefore, the following is the position of Forage Seed Canada Inc. on recombinant DNA technology and subsequent genetically engineered alfalfa and genetically engineered forage seeds, including Roundup Ready™ alfalfa:

We do support a regulatory environment based on sound science that openly communicates clear and meaningful information to stakeholders. We do not support testing or commercialization that poses a risk for release of a specific transgene or any forage seed transgenes (ie the Roundup Ready™ alfalfa transgene) into the environment or commercialization of any transgenic variety including Roundup Ready™ alfalfa or stacked traits in Canada until such time as:

- Federal, Provincial, and Municipal regulatory approval, consumer acceptance by the majority of each individual market, marketplace acceptance by not only governments, but also the majority of buyers, seed multipliers, end users, and their customers, in not only Canada, but also in the export markets including United States, the European Union, China, Japan, Mexico, South America, and the Middle East;

- a strong identity preservation system for alfalfa varieties is in place in Canada;

- a rapid, cost-effective, sensitive, accurate test (based on each export market's specific requirements) for the specific transgene is available;

- issues including legal or fiduciary pertaining to responsibility, liability, loss of markets, insurance, and consequences of contamination are clarified;

- a current economic impact assessment on how this product would impact all forage seed markets and other industries that forage seed has an impact on, including GE sensitive export markets is done;

- a liability clause is in place to compensate affected stakeholders fully for lost seed markets due to contamination by gene transfer, or contamination by uncontrolled feral alfalfa populations, and also for monetary losses and costs due to rejected seed shipments due to GE contamination.

Until such time as all the above stipulations are in place, Forage Seed Canada Inc. opposes the release of this technology into western Canada.

Approved by Forage Seed Canada Inc. as of February 12, 2015.

Per: 

President

POSITION STATEMENT

Position Statement on Recombinant DNA Technology and Subsequent Genetically Modified Alfalfa including Roundup Ready™ Alfalfa

Approved by the following organizations on September 11, 2008

**Canadian Alfalfa Seed Council
Atlantic Forage and Corn Team
British Columbia Forage Council
Irrigated Alfalfa Seed Producers Association (Alberta)
Manitoba Forage Council
Manitoba Forage Seed Association
Peace Region Forage Seed Association
Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Association
Saskatchewan Alfalfa Seed Producers Development Commission
Saskatchewan Forage Council**

The following is the position of the above-named organizations on recombinant DNA technology and subsequent genetically modified alfalfa, including Roundup Ready™ alfalfa.

We recognize that the future of biotechnology in agriculture is dependent upon consumer acceptance and that recombinant DNA technology (the transfer of DNA from one species to another) may well be accepted when benefits to consumers, producers, the environment, and human health are demonstrated.

We also recognize that consumers are not united in understanding and acceptance of products from genetically modified crops produced via recombinant DNA technology.

We support a regulatory environment based on sound science that openly communicates clear and meaningful information to stakeholders. We will not support testing that poses a risk for release of a specific transgene (e.g. the Roundup Ready™ alfalfa transgene) into the environment or commercialization of any transgenic alfalfa variety including Roundup Ready™ alfalfa in Canada until such time as:

- the variety receives Canadian regulatory approvals for food, feed, and environmental safety.
- regulatory approval for the specific transgenic alfalfa variety (e.g. Roundup Ready™ alfalfa) is obtained in Canada and in the following export markets: the United States, the European Union, China, Japan, Mexico, and South America.
- an identity preservation system for alfalfa varieties is in place in Canada.
- a rapid, cost-effective test for identification of the specific transgene is available.