

To whom it may concern,

I, Pieter Vandenberg respectfully recommends that the existing rules governing Canola growing and crucifer vegetable seed production in the Willamette Valley should not be allowed to sunset, as this would do great harm to growing crucifer type vegetable seeds in the area. The rulings should be extended for an unlimited period in order for the crucifer vegetable seed production to thrive. This seed production is to a large extent geared to export markets, which have strict rules about GMO's and genetically modified events and /or have complete bans on GMO contaminated seeds, often they require certification of Freedom of GMO's.

Concurrently with the GMO risk, uncontrolled canola production in the area also comes with major seedborne disease risks for the crucifer type vegetable seeds grown in the Willamette area. The seedborne bacteria that cause black rot in crops like cabbage, cauliflower can be rampant in Canola and spread from the Canola to local crucifer type weeds and subsequently harm seed crops.

Consequently, it would be best to extend the current regulations governing the growing of Canola and crucifer type vegetable seeds in the affected areas of the Willamette.

Sincerely

Pieter Vandenberg

formerly VP Quality Assurance for Peto Seed 1991-1996

formerly VP Quality Assurance/Technical resources Seminis 1996-2009