

# PRODUCER GUIDELINES

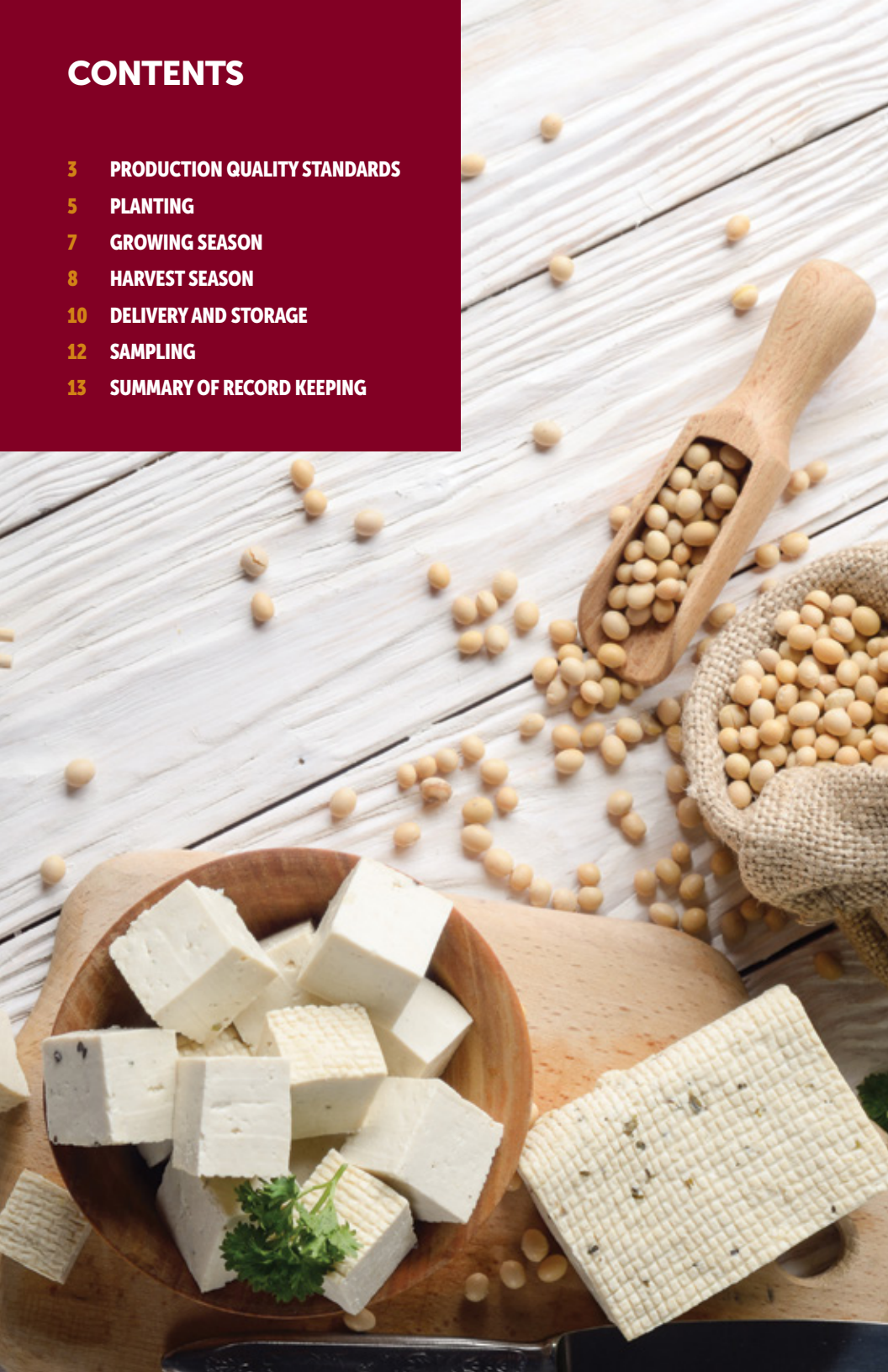
FOR SEVITA FOOD GRADE AND  
SEED PRODUCTION

Advancing Soybean Genetics.  
Driving Local Partnerships.



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Dear Producer,

Thank you for choosing to grow soybeans with Sevita International!

As a food-grade or soybean seed grower, you represent a critical partnership in our business. The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with a reference tool to ensure that Sevita's production quality standards are clear and to outline the best possible agricultural practices for you to follow. We also provide some helpful tips from experienced growers to ensure that you are successful.

At Sevita, it is our mission to collaborate with farmers to grow the finest soybean varieties and supply our customers' global growing demand for high-quality food-grade soybean products. Our goal is for all parties to benefit, including the environment. By delivering high-quality soybeans that meet our standards, and following the recommendations in this booklet, you will benefit from the production premiums offered by Sevita. In turn, we will benefit from the high-quality product for our food-grade end users or future soybean growers. Furthermore, we will all benefit from using sustainable agricultural practices that preserve and enhance our environment.

Our partnership with growers of high-quality product like you help us realize our vision to become Canada's leading provider of food-grade soybeans to the world.

On behalf of our entire team, I would like to thank you for choosing Sevita International to be partners in your operation.

We look forward to working with you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Hazeleger', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Natalie Hazeleger,  
*National Operations and Quality Manager*



**PARTNERING  
TO NOURISH THE  
GLOBAL APPETITE  
FOR CANADIAN  
GROWN SOYBEANS.**

# PRODUCTION QUALITY STANDARDS

Sevita's soybean production contracts include terms that outline our product quality standards. As a grower, it is important that you employ best management practices during planting, the growing season, harvest, and delivery, to meet these standards and secure full payment of your premium. These quality standards are required to continue to offer top-quality products to the export market and local growers, which in turn, supports competitive grower programs.

## SEVITA'S PRODUCT QUALITY STANDARDS:

- Soybeans shall be free from any dirt and weed staining.
- Moisture of no more than 14.5% delivered at harvest, and 14.0% if delivered post-harvest.
- Zero contamination from GMO soybeans or other GMO crops. (unless producing GMO soybean seed).
- Zero contamination from volunteer corn, nightshade, adzuki or other edible beans and/or other soybeans.
- Cleanout of no more than 10% (splits, mechanical damage, small beans, foreign material, etc.).
- All other grading criteria must meet the standard for Canada #2 grade or better.

As a soybean grower, you are expected to make every reasonable effort to minimize seed coat damage during harvest, transference, storage, and delivery. This includes combining at an appropriate moisture level (12% – 14%), adjusting combine settings regularly as harvest moisture and conditions change, ensuring all equipment is well-maintained and suitable for food-grade/seed soybeans, running augers at full capacity, and eliminating any unnecessary handling or seed impact.

The following sections detail the best management practices to be followed—from planting to delivery of your soybeans—to ensure your crop meets Sevita's product quality standards as outlined above.



**YOU REPRESENT  
ONE OF THE MOST  
CRITICAL  
PARTNERSHIPS  
IN OUR BUSINESS.**

# PLANTING

Field selection and planting preparation are crucial in minimizing risk of contamination in the form of other crops, GMO soybeans, other conventional soybean varieties, volunteer corn, and weeds.

## MEETING QUALITY CRITERIA

### FIELD SELECTION

- Fields should be relatively free of perennial weeds and should not have experienced heavy weed pressure in recent production years.
- All contracted soybean production fields require a 3-meter buffer strip between adjacent fields containing beans (soybeans or other types of beans) to ensure varietal purity.
- Soybeans cannot be planted in fields that had a different type or variety of bean in it the previous year.
- Fields that have grown adzuki beans within the last five years are not recommended due to the tendency for adzuki beans to volunteer.

### PLANTING PREPARATION

- Ensure your planter or seed drill is properly and thoroughly cleaned before planting.
- Empty all seed from the tank and remove any lodged seed.
- Clean gravity boxes and augers used for seeding purposes.
- Sevita recommends applying a pre-emerge chemical on all contracted production acres.

### RECORD KEEPING

- Keep your seed tags and invoices. Sevita production programs require soybeans to be produced from pedigreed seed.
- Submit a field map to Sevita immediately following emergence. **Deadline: July 1st**
- Accurately complete all information on the Pre-Harvest Grower Record.

**SEED PRODUCERS: DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR CSGA MEMBERSHIP AND APPLY FOR CROP CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION FOLLOWING PLANTING.**

A photograph of a soybean field. In the foreground, there is a path of dark brown soil and light brown, mulched crop residue (likely corn stalks). The path leads towards a row of young, green soybean plants. The background shows a flat landscape with more green crops under a clear blue sky.

**PARTNER WITH US  
AS WE MEET THE  
GLOBAL DEMAND FOR  
HIGH-QUALITY  
SOYBEAN  
PRODUCTS.**



# GROWING SEASON

During the growing season, regular and effective field scouting for weeds and other pests is important to maximize the yield of your crop. The earlier issues are found, the more likely an effective solution can be implemented. These actions can help manage volunteer corn, nightshade, and other weeds, so production meets quality criteria.

## MEETING QUALITY CRITERIA

Scout your fields on a regular basis looking for:

- Any weeds including volunteer corn;
- Signs of disease;
- Aphids or other insect pests;
- Micronutrient deficiencies;
- Smaller weeds are usually much easier to control with herbicides. Early weed control is critical for top yields.

First year growers are encouraged to contact your Regional Sales Manager (RSM) or Sevita representative to scout your field at least once during the growing season and answer any questions you may have.

## WEED CONTROL AND PESTICIDES

Sevita growers must use approved crop-protection products applied as directed on the label. For a list of approved crop-protection products contact your RSM or Sevita representative.

Please use best management practices to avoid spray drifting during application. Consideration should also be given to neighbouring fields. If there is a risk of spray drift affecting a field of Food Grade or Seed soybeans, a mitigation plan should be implemented to ensure unapproved chemicals are not inadvertently applied.

## RECORD KEEPING

Accurately fill out all information on the Pre-Harvest Grower Record:

- This includes all herbicides/pesticides used on the field(s) including the application rate and date of application.
- Any fertilizer and foliar feeding should be filled out in the proper location on the Pre-Harvest Grower Record.
- Submit your Pre-Harvest Grower Record. **Deadline: August 15th**

# HARVEST SEASON

Harvest is a critical stage when producing a high-quality crop. Diligence on the part of the grower in preparing and carrying out harvest can support a successful quality crop. A lack of care can create costly quality issues.

## MEETING QUALITY CRITERIA

### HARVEST PREPARATION

- All volunteer corn must be removed from the field prior to harvest.
- A pre-harvest burndown may be required to control perennial weeds, minimize staining, and improve harvestability.
- In some cases, glyphosate may be used on food-grade beans pre-harvest when the crop is at the appropriate stage. It is strongly recommended that you consult with your Sevita dealer or RSM prior to treatment.
- Pre-harvest intervals and timing must be followed to ensure maximum residue limits are not exceeded and the crop is eligible for food use.
- If a pre-harvest application is made, record the details on the Post-Harvest Grower Record.
- **Seed production acres should refer to the pre-harvest bulletin Sevita sends out regarding burndown.**
- **Prior to combining, seed producers must ensure their crop has been physically inspected and purity standards for the desired harvest pedigree have been met.**

### COMBINE AND CONVEYANCE EQUIPMENT CLEANOUT

- Harvest should commence only after a thorough cleaning of the combine and conveyance equipment.
- Thoroughly clean out the combine that will be used to harvest the crop. Refer to the owner's manual for tips and procedures for your combine.
- All areas of the combine where seed gathers should be cleaned thoroughly using compressed air and/or high-pressure water.
- It is recommended to add 50 gallons of water in the holding tank to flush out the unloading auger and sump. Alternatively, a bag of sawdust could be used for this flush.



- Allow the machine to dry with the guards and covers off.
- Remove any debris from header and blow down with air to ensure all material has been removed from the grain platform.
- After cleanout, it is recommended to harvest 200 feet of crop and deliver this harvest to a local commercial elevator.
- If a custom combine operator is to be used, ensure the operator is aware that you are growing food-grade or seed soybeans, and that the combine must be thoroughly cleaned. As the grower, you are responsible for checking the cleanliness of the combine prior to harvesting.

## HARVESTING



- Dirt tagging and staining can be minimized by harvesting soybeans when the plants are completely dry. Wait until the dew is burned off the plant before beginning to harvest each day. Harvest should stop once the dew starts to settle.
- If there are any problem areas in the field such as heavy weed patches, combine around these areas to keep them separate and deliver this production to a local elevator.
- Ensure the combine is regularly adjusted to reduce mechanical damage, splits and cracked seed coats.
- Ensuring all augers are running full will help reduce damage.
- Check samples regularly as moisture content can change throughout the day. As a general rule, if you see more than four split soybeans in a handful of soybeans, you are causing too much damage.

## RECORD KEEPING

Submit your Post-Harvest Grower Record upon completion of harvest. **Deadline: November 1st**

# DELIVERY AND STORAGE

After a successful growing season and harvest, it is important to prevent quality issues and contamination from occurring. Care must be taken to complete the process.

## MEETING QUALITY CRITERIA

### DELIVERY

All conveyance and transportation equipment must be thoroughly cleaned and free from other products or crop. This includes the grain buggies, augers, conveyors, gravity boxes, trailers, trucks, wagons, etc. If custom trucking is used, the grower is responsible for ensuring cleanliness of trailers prior to filling.

Wagons or trucks that have been used for treated seed cannot be used to transport harvested food-grade or seed soybeans.

Trucks that have been used to haul medicated feed must be pressure washed with hot water.

### STORAGE PREPARATION

(Only applicable to growers storing on-farm)

- Inspect the bin thoroughly to make sure it does not have any cracks or holes that will allow for outside moisture or rodents to enter the bin. Check the bin distributors and repair any issues.
- Any storage bins to be used for food-grade or seed production must be thoroughly cleaned before filling.
- Running wood shavings through the unloading auger prior to filling is a great way to clean out the auger and prevent any risk of contamination from the previous crop.
- It is recommended to add diatomaceous earth (e.g. Protect-It) to reduce insect infestation when first starting to fill the bin.
- Sevita requires a representative bin sample, please refer to page 12 for proper sampling protocol.



## STORAGE PRACTICES

### Core

Coring is the process of removing the centre 'core' of the bin. Normally this can be successfully completed by removing a load or two after the bin has been filled. These loads can either be delivered to Sevita (if space permits), or can be unloaded back into the bin. Coring will remove fines that have accumulated in the centre and improve air flow within the bin.

Level off the top of the bin immediately after filling.

### Aerate

- Aerate soybeans as soon as possible after placing in storage. During the Fall, cool the grain to match the average ambient temperatures. Continue cooling the bin in stages until the bin is frozen.
- Open doors and vents at the top of the bins to allow for warm, moist air to escape. Trapping moisture on the roof of the bin can create condensation and dripping onto the soybeans. This will cause spoilage that will need to be removed prior to shipping.
- During the Spring, start aeration as soon as the average outside temperature increases by 5 – 7 degrees Celsius.
- For help determining when to run fans, visit [decisionfarm.ca/auth](https://decisionfarm.ca/auth) and register for a free BINcast account.

### Monitor

- Monitor stored soybeans routinely (preferably every two weeks) to evaluate their condition and anticipate any problems that are developing. When checking bins, use your eyes and nose to detect issues. Check bins more frequently when temperatures are fluctuating widely.
- Check the visual appearance. Soybeans should look bright, not dusty or dull.
- Look for moisture and condensation on the underside of the roof. Signs of moisture indicate air movement in the bin, which can lead to problems.
- With the fan running, take a deep breath. The air should smell sweet. Musty odours may require immediate corrective action.
- Look for signs of insects and insect activity in the bin.

## DELIVERY

- When preparing to deliver from on-farm storage, check the condition of unloading equipment to ensure it is in good working order.
- Make sure conveyance equipment is not contaminated with other crops or GMO soybeans.
- Always run augers full to minimize damage.
- Eliminate unnecessary handling.

# SAMPLING

## PROVIDING A SAMPLE

Sevita requires that you submit a representative sample of soybeans stored on-farm. This sample provides Sevita with preliminary quality characteristics for the crop and helps with scheduling and marketing.

### To obtain a representative sample, please follow the procedure below:

1. Take a small sample from each load that goes into the bin.
2. Thoroughly mix this sample in a large pail.
3. Transfer the soybeans from the large pail into a seal-able plastic bag or container.
4. Clearly label the sample with the your name, variety name, the bin identifier, the approximate quantity in the bin variety. **Provide a 2 KG sample for food-grade and a 6 KG sample for seed.**
5. Keep the sample sealed in a cool, dry location until it can be delivered to or picked up by Sevita.



# SUMMARY OF RECORD KEEPING REQUIREMENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

<b>RECORD</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
Signed Production Agreement	Upon receipt
Field Maps	July 1st
Pre-Harvest Grower Record	August 15th
Post-Harvest Grower Record	November 1st
Representative Bin Sample	November 1st
Clean Truck Certificate	Upon Delivery



**SEVITA**<sup>™</sup>  
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Driving Local Partnerships.**

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