

## CONE AND SEED QUALITY STANDARDS

Cone and seed quality standards related to handling requirements are a major component of the ministry's Tree Seed Centre Quality Assurance program. The intent of cone and seed quality standards is to promote optimum seed yield, germination and storability. The cone quality standards have been updated this year to better reflect pre-processing requirements and cone and seed handling practices at the Tree Seed Centre. The new cone quality standards are less restrictive in that there are now two categories identified in terms of acceptable cone condition upon receipt: 1) minimum standards and 2) recommended only. Seed quality standards remain unchanged.

*Note: Additional requirements associated with registration standards/procedures are listed on the back of the cone collection report forms.*

### Cone and Seed Quality Standards

The minimum *Seed* quality standards remain unchanged and are described below:

#### **Seed – Minimum quality standards (unchanged)**

- Purity 97% or better
- Moisture Content within a range of 4.0% and 9.9%

New minimum *Cone* quality standards associated with acceptable handling requirements for cones processed at the Tree Seed Centre are described as follows:

#### **Cone – Minimum quality standards**

*Cones of Western Redcedar, Western Hemlock and Yellow Cedar:*

- Cones of other species should not exceed 10% by volume
- Non-cone material or debris should not exceed 10% by volume

*Cones of species other than Western Redcedar, Western Hemlock and Yellow Cedar:*

- Cones of other species should not exceed 5% by volume
- Non-cone material or debris should not exceed 5% by volume

#### **Cone – Recommended quality standards**

- Empty should not exceed 10% by volume
- Old Cones should not exceed 10% by volume
- Badly diseased or insect infested should not exceed 10% by volume

## **Cone and Seed Upgrading to Meet Acceptable Quality Standards**

For those cones and/or seed that *do not* meet the standards specified above, the Tree Seed Centre, where possible and in consultation with the client, will bring the material up to an acceptable standard.

*Note: Additional fees may apply where such cone and seed upgrading services are required.*

### **For more information, contact**

Heather Rooke, Manager (or)  
Dawn Stublely, Operations Supervisor

Ministry of Forests  
Tree Seed Centre

Phone: (604) 541-1683  
Fax: (604) 541-1685