

CSTA ANNOUNCEMENT

Seed Corn Companies Support Stewardship Urge Farmers to “Respect the Refuge”



™ Ottawa, February 22, 2010 - “Insect protected corn hybrids need a refuge” is the message that the Seed Corn Company members of the Canadian Seed Trade Association want to convey to farmers who plant insect protected corn varieties.

As part of the effort to make farmers aware of the importance of providing refuge, CSTA has acquired the Canadian rights to the “Respect the Refuge” graphic and logo as shown in this announcement. CSTA will provide the graphic and logo to Corn industry stakeholders for use in communication, promotion and education campaigns associated with insect protected corn technology.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency requires that farmers who wish to plant insect protected corn hybrids (eg. Bt corn) must also plant an insect susceptible refuge (refuge (either 5% or 20% of the acreage depending on the technology used). Providing refuge is a strategy endorsed by leading scientists to reduce the risk of insect populations developing resistance. Failure to comply with refuge requirements may lead to insect resistance, and could slow down the introduction of new insect protected corn technologies, and affect individual grower’s access to these products. More information on the refuge requirements can be found on the website of the Canadian Corn Pest Coalition www.cornpest.ca

“CSTA is encouraging corn companies to make the graphic and logo a prominent feature in all communications and educational material associated with insect protected corn hybrids,” says Mark Foster, Chair of CSTA’s Corn, Soybeans and Eastern Cereals Committee. “We hope that this will result in increased compliance with refuge requirements and will ensure that farmers have access to these corn hybrids for many years to come.”

CSTA will hold the trademark on the graphic and logo and will provide it to corn companies and other stakeholders in exchange for a signed use agreement that will require that the graphic and logo be used in its entirety with no changes; that the graphic and logo is not used for sales purposes; and that the trademark as owned by the CSTA is acknowledged.

For more information, contact:

Patty Townsend, Vice-President

Tel: 613-829-9527 Email: ptownsend@cdnseed.org