



STATE OF IDAHO



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KNOW YOUR SEED, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE ADVISES Certified Seeds Critical to Disease Free Crops

Boise - "The use of certified seeds can prevent and probably has prevented the introduction of several plant diseases into Idaho," said Celia Gould, director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA). The first decision a farmer should make every planting season is the choice of seed, where it was grown and its certified status.

The very strict requirements for bean seeds to be planted in Idaho requires that an Idaho inspection tag (green tag) or an Idaho Crop Improvement Association inspection tag (blue tag) be attached to each bag of seed. This simple procedure has led to the continued production of bacterial blight-free bean seeds. "Because of our diligence in disease control, Idaho-produced bean seeds command premium prices in the domestic and international markets," said Lloyd Knight, administrator of ISDA's Division of Plant Industries.

Several economic crops grown in Idaho are affected by seed borne diseases; bacterial ring rot of potato, black chaff, common and karnal bunt of wheat, pea seed borne mosaic, barley mosaic, barley stripe mosaic and maize dwarf mosaic of corn. The introduction of these diseases in Idaho can be prevented if growers are diligent in only planting inspected clean certified seeds.

Lentils are a very important economic crop in northern Idaho. The anthracnose disease of lentils is not known to be in Idaho. However, the disease is becoming a very important factor in lentil production in the Canadian provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and was found in North Dakota several years ago.

"It is very important that growers should not buy seeds from areas known to be infested with anthracnose," said Michael Cooper, chief of ISDA's Bureau of Plant Services.

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