

Position Statement on Recombinant DNA Technology and its Implications for Genetically Modified Alfalfa (including but not limited to Roundup Ready alfalfa)

December 14, 2011

Alfalfa Seed Commission (Alberta)

We recognize that the future of biotechnology in agriculture depends upon consumer and industry acceptance. Recombinant DNA technology (the transfer of DNA from one species to another) may well be accepted when a desirable cost/benefit ratio to our industry and the consumer are demonstrated.

We encourage education of the agricultural industry and end users so informed decisions are made.

We support a regulatory environment based on industry consultation and sound science with results communicated in a clear and informative manner to all stakeholders. We do not support testing that poses a risk for release of a specific transgene (e.g. Roundup Ready alfalfa transgene) into the environment or commercialization of any transgenic alfalfa variety, including Roundup Ready, alfalfa in Canada until such time as:

- regulatory approval and market acceptance for any specific transgenic alfalfa variety is established or there is reasonable consensus for acceptable tolerance levels of adventitious presence based on domestic and export demand standards.
- standards for adventitious presence in non-genetically modified alfalfa and other crops is established.
- an identity preservation system for alfalfa production in Canada is in place with appropriate agronomic and industry practices to maintain varietal purity within established limits.
- research addresses the practical management issues and crop rotation concerns due to the abundance of crops with the Roundup Ready trait. We encourage the development of traits through genetic modification that are not exclusively tied to the Roundup Ready marker gene.