

WATERMELON WAIVER FORMS

Stokes Seeds and its suppliers require a signed waiver on watermelon seed orders. Please follow the instructions below to ensure the process is completed correctly.

Instructions:

- 1. Read all information contained in these documents carefully.
- 2. Please feel free to consult a lawyer before signing.
- **3.** Ensure you have filled out and signed the required fields on **ALL** documents.
- **4.** Make a copy of the signed forms to keep for your personal records.
- **5.** Send <u>ONE</u> signed copy of all documents including supplier waiver (if applicable) to Stokes Seeds using one of the following methods:

Email: stokes@StokeSeeds.com

Fax: 1-800-272-5560

CDN Post: Stokes Seeds Ltd. **US Post:** Stokes Seeds Inc.

PO Box 10 PO Box 548 296 Collier Rd. S. Buffalo, NY Thorold, ON 14240-0548

L2V 5E9

If you have any questions or require clarification on the attached forms **please contact our Sales Department** at 1-800-263-7233.



NOTICE, WAIVER AND COMPLETE RELEASE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING LIMITATION OF WARRANTY AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY (GROWER) NOT RECOMMENDED FOR PLANTING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

<u>Watermelon Fruit Blotch</u> (WFB), caused by <u>Acidovorax avenae subsp. citrulli</u>, and <u>Gummy Stem Blight</u> (GSB), caused by the fungus <u>Didymella Bryoniae</u> are serious diseases which have become a significant risk factor in many areas where watermelons are grown. The pathogens causing WFB and GSB can be introduced into a field by infested seed, infected transplants, volunteer watermelon, mechanical means, or natural spread from alternate hosts.

- 1. GROWER'S RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY FOR WATERMELON FRUIT BLOTCH (WFB) AND GUMMY STEM BLIGHT (GSB). Acknowledging the above, GROWER still wishes to purchase watermelon seeds from Stokes Seeds Limited or Stokes Seed Company of Niagara Falls Inc. (jointly referred as STOKES SEEDS), and GROWER is willing to assume all risks or loss associated with WFB and GSB. Accordingly, GROWER hereby FULLY AND UNCONDITIONALLY RELEASES STOKES SEEDS AND ITS SUPPLIERS FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY WITH RESPECT TO THE PRESENCE OF WFB AND GSB ON OR WITHIN SUCH SEEDS OR THE VULNERABILITY OF SUCH SEEDS, TO THE WFB AND GSB. GROWER ACKNOWLEDGES AND AGREES THAT STOKES SEEDS AND ITS SUPPLIERS SHALL HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITY OR LIABILITY FOR ANY LOSSES OR DAMAGES RELATING IN ANY WAY TO WFB AND GSB, UNDER ANY LEGAL THEORY INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO NEGLIGENCE OR STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY. STOKES SEEDS acknowledges that all other aspects of its express warranty, as contained on its label, do apply, and that any waiver or limitation on the STOKES SEEDS express warranty resulting from the terms and conditions of this Agreement, only apply to the presence on or with vulnerability of, such seeds, to WFB and GSB. GROWER further agrees that Stokes Seeds and its suppliers have no liability or responsibility for its watermelon seeds or plants grown therefrom, if they are contaminated with WFB and GSB after the seeds are delivered to grower. GROWER acknowledges that contamination may occur in transplant house, in the field, or under circumstances beyond the control of Stokes Seeds.
- 2. GROWER'S AGREEMENT NOT TO RESELL SEEDS OR PLANTS. In consideration for STOKES SEEDS, or its authorized suppliers, agreeing to sell watermelon seed to GROWER, GROWER hereby agrees that it/he will only use such seeds for plantings on its/his own holdings, and will not, under any circumstances, sell, transfer, distribute or in any way dispose of any such seeds or seedlings grown from the seeds, with or without consideration, to any third party. To the extent that GROWER does not utilize all such watermelon seeds purchased from STOKES SEEDS, all such unopened containers may be returned to STOKES SEEDS or its authorized suppliers, within six (6) months from the date of initial purchase for a refund of the purchase price.
- 3. GROWER'S INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT. GROWER acknowledges that in the event it/he breaches the terms and conditions of paragraph 2, this Agreement, with respect to the distribution of any such watermelon seeds to a third party, STOKES SEEDS and authorized STOKES SEEDS suppliers could incur liability to such third parties. THEREFORE, GROWER HEREBY UNCONDITIONALLY AGREES TO DEFEND AND INDEMNIFY STOKES SEEDS, AND ANY AUTHORIZED STOKES SEEDS SUPPLIERS, FROM ANY AND ALL LOSS, LIABILITY, OR DAMAGE WHICH STOKES SEEDS, OR STOKES SEEDS SUPPLIERS, MAY INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES, RELATING TO ANY CLAIM BY A THIRD PARTY WHO RECEIVED ANY PORTION OF THE WATERMELON SEEDS WHICH ARE COVERED BY THIS AGREEMENT AS SOLD BY STOKES SEEDS TO GROWER.
- 4. <u>GROWER UNDERSTANDS THIS AGREEMENT</u>. GROWER represents and warrants that it/he has consulted with or had an opportunity to consult with an attorney, and that GROWER fully understands the meaning and legal effect of this Agreement.
- ALL OTHER TERMS OF THE STOKES SEEDS LABEL APPLY. Except as expressly provided within this Agreement, all remaining terms, disclaimers, limitations, and conditions of purchase as disclosed and set forth on the STOKES SEEDS label and on the STOKES SEEDS NOTICE TO BUYER REGARDING WARRANTY AND CONDITION OF SALE shall apply to all of GROWER's purchases of watermelon seed.
- 6. CHOICE OF LAW AND CHOICE OF FORUM. The parties agree that this Agreement is entered into in the City of Thorold, in the province of Ontario, and shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the Province of Ontario. It is further agreed that any litigation by and between GROWER and STOKES SEEDS, relating to the sale of all such watermelon seeds hereunder, shall take place in Thorold, Ontario, Canada.
- 7. ATTORNEY'S FEES. In the event that STOKES SEEDS enforces any terms of this Agreement in any litigation with GROWER, STOKES SEEDS shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees from GROWER.

I have read and understand this release agreement **Stokes Seeds** and I agree to be bound by all of its terms. STOKES SEEDS AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE GROWER SIGNATURE FOR OFFICE USE ONLY ADDRESS: STATE ORDER NUMBER STATE ZIP CODE CITY IN U.S.A IN CANADA TELEPHONE: __ P.O. Box 548 P.O. Box 10 Thorold ON L2V 5E9 Buffalo NY 14240-0548 DATE: 800-263-7233 800-263-7233 STOKES SEEDS VARIETY REQUESTED QTY/LBS STOKES SEEDS VARIETY REQUESTED OTY/LBS

NOTICE, WAIVER AND INDEMNIFICATION REGARDING BACTERIAL FRUIT BLOTCH AND GUMMY STEM BLIGHT ON HM.CLAUSE, INC. WATERMELON SEED

1. BACTERIAL FRUIT BLOTCH NOTICE

Bacterial Fruit Blotch (BFB) of Watermelon, caused by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, is a serious disease which continues to be a significant risk in many areas of watermelon cultivation.

2. GUMMY STEM BLIGHT NOTICE

Gummy Stem Blight (GSB) caused by a fungus, *Didymella bryoniae* is a serious disease which continues to be a significant risk in many areas of watermelon cultivation.

- 3. Watermelon Seed may carry the pathogens which cause BFB and GSB. While it is impossible to conduct any testing procedures to give results with 100% certainty with regard to the presence of any seed borne BFB or GSB infection, industry accepted representative samples of all HM.Clause, Inc. watermelon seed lots are tested for the pathogens. Only seed of production mother lots tested and found "negative" or with "no evidence" of the BFB and GSB pathogens, within the known limits of detection, is sold.
- 4. **PRIOR to any Sale or Transfer of Watermelon Seed**, Buyer will obtain a signed copy of the NOTICE, WAIVER AND INDEMNIFICATION REGARDING BACTERIAL FRUIT BLOTCH AND GUMMY STEM BLIGHT ON HM.CLAUSE, INC. WATERMELON SEED (the "BFB Waiver") from the purchaser or transferee. Sales or transfers to any person who has not signed a current copy of this document are prohibited ("Prohibited Sales").

5. INDEMNIFICATION

BUYER WILL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND AND HOLD SELLER and HM.CLAUSE, INC. HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL BFB and/or GSB CLAIMS ARISING FROM THE SALE, TRANSFER OR CULTIVATION OF HM.CLAUSE, INC. WATERMELON SEED, WHETHER THE LEGAL THEORY FORMING THE BASIS OF SUCH CLAIM INVOLVES AGREEMENT, TORT, NEGLIGENCE, STRICT LIABILITY OR OTHERWISE.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND WAIVER

BUYER acknowledges that it has been informed of the risks associated with the potential presence of BFB and GSB in watermelon seed. BUYER knowingly and voluntarily releases SELLER and HM.Clause, Inc. and waives any and all claims relating to BFB and GSB with respect to all HM.Clause, Inc. Watermelon Seed.

7. THIS NOTICE, WAIVER AND INDEMNIFICATION REGARDING BACTERIAL FRUIT BLOTCH AND GUMMY STEM BLIGHT ON HM.CLAUSE, INC. WATERMELON SEED WILL REMAIN IN PLACE FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE BELOW FOR AN UNDETERMINED AMOUNT OF TIME UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE BY HM.CLAUSE, INC.

BUYER:	DATE:	
SELLER:	DATE:	

Limitation of Warranty and Liability and Use Restriction READ THIS BEFORE ORDERING OR USING

Harris Moran Seed Company (HM) warrants that a representative sample of the seed and associated products in this container (collectively the "Seed") was tested and labeled at the time of initial packaging (or thereafter as indicated) by HM, and, at the time of such testing, conformed to the label or tab description within recognized tolerances.

Disclaimer of Warranties: HM makes <u>NO</u> other warranty of any kind. *THIS EXPRESS WARRANTY EXCLUDES ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING THE WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY AND THE WARRANTY OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THERE ARE NO WARRANTIES WHICH EXTEND BEYOND THE DESCRIPTION HEREON. Harris Moran makes <u>NO</u> warranty this Seed is free of seed-borne diseases or free of genetically modified organisms. As permitted by law, Seed is sold "As Is".*

Acceptance of Terms: Any person who buys, receives, opens or uses this Seed (collectively the "User") thereby accepts and agrees to this Limitation of Warranty and Liability and Use Restriction ("Agreement") between User and HM. If User did not purchase this Seed directly from HM, User agrees that HM is a third-party beneficiary and is entitled to enforce this Agreement as if it had been entered into between User and HM. User agrees to accept full responsibility for the performance of the Seed and crop. IF USER DOES NOT ACCEPT THESE TERMS, USER MUST RETURN THIS SEED IN THE UNOPENED CONTAINERS TO THE PLACE OF PURCHASE FOR A FULL REFUND WITHIN 30 DAYS OF RECEIPT.

Exclusive Remedy. User's Exclusive Remedy and HM's sole liability for any loss resulting from the ordering or use of the Seed is limited to a refund of the price paid for the Seed and will not include incidental, consequential, or exemplary damages, such as loss of yield or lost profits. User agrees that HM's refund of the price paid for the Seed will not cause this Agreement to fail of its essential purpose.

Immediate Notice. Buyer must give HM immediate notice (no later than 7 days) when Buyer believes a Breach of Warranty exists, and Buyer shall fully cooperate with HM investigation.

Product Data Limitations. Product data and ratings are based on averages of results from various test locations. They are a summary of past results and **not** a prediction of future performance. Your performance will vary depending on the actual environment, pathogen strain and management conditions in your field. Any technical advice is provided for your consideration only.

Third Party Handling. HM takes no responsibility and makes no warranty for Third-Party Handling including treatment, pelleting, priming, grading, packaging or any processing done to the Seed by anyone other than HM.

Notice of Required Arbitration/Conciliation/Mediation Required By Many States within United States: Under seed laws of many states, arbitration, conciliation or mediation is required as a prerequisite to maintaining a legal action based upon the failure of seed to which this notice is attached to produce as represented. The User must file a complaint (sworn for AL, AR, CO, FL, IL, IN, MN, MS, NC, SC, TX, WA; signed only CA, GA, ID, ND, SD) along with the required filing fee (where applicable) with the Commissioner/Director/Secretary of Agriculture, Seed Commissioner, or Chief Agricultural Officer of the State within such time as to permit inspection of the crops, plants, or trees by the designated agency and the seedsman from whom the seed was purchased. A copy of the complaint must be sent to HM by certified or registered mail or as otherwise provided by statute.

Binding Arbitration and Venue: In lieu of any action in civil court, HM and User agree to submit any claim or dispute based on the ordering or using of Seed to binding arbitration in Stanislaus County, California under the rules of the American Arbitration Association. In the event a court of law determines any claim or dispute is not subject to binding arbitration, then Stanislaus County, California shall be the venue of any civil action and California law shall apply and any civil action shall be non-jury.

Severability: If any term of this Agreement is held to be unenforceable, all remaining terms will remain in effect and be fully enforceable.

<u>Use Restriction</u>: This Seed is owned by or licensed to HM. HM strictly limits the sale and possession of this Seed to a grant to User of a non-exclusive right to use this Seed for the sole purpose of growing a single crop of plant parts for sale or use as a vegetable product. User shall not export, reproduce, multiply or breed the Seed, and shall not genetically analyze or manipulate in any way the Seed, or any plants or plant parts produced from the Seed. User shall include this Agreement with any transfer of this Seed.

This Agreement is the **Entire Agreement** between HM and User regarding Warranties, Liabilities and Limitations on Warranties and Liabilities. **User has not relied upon any warranty, representation or use restriction except as specifically provided in this Agreement.** Rev. 3/14/10

Buyer's or Transplant Grower's Initials