



# BCPC Weeds Review 2021

## Seed standards in E & W

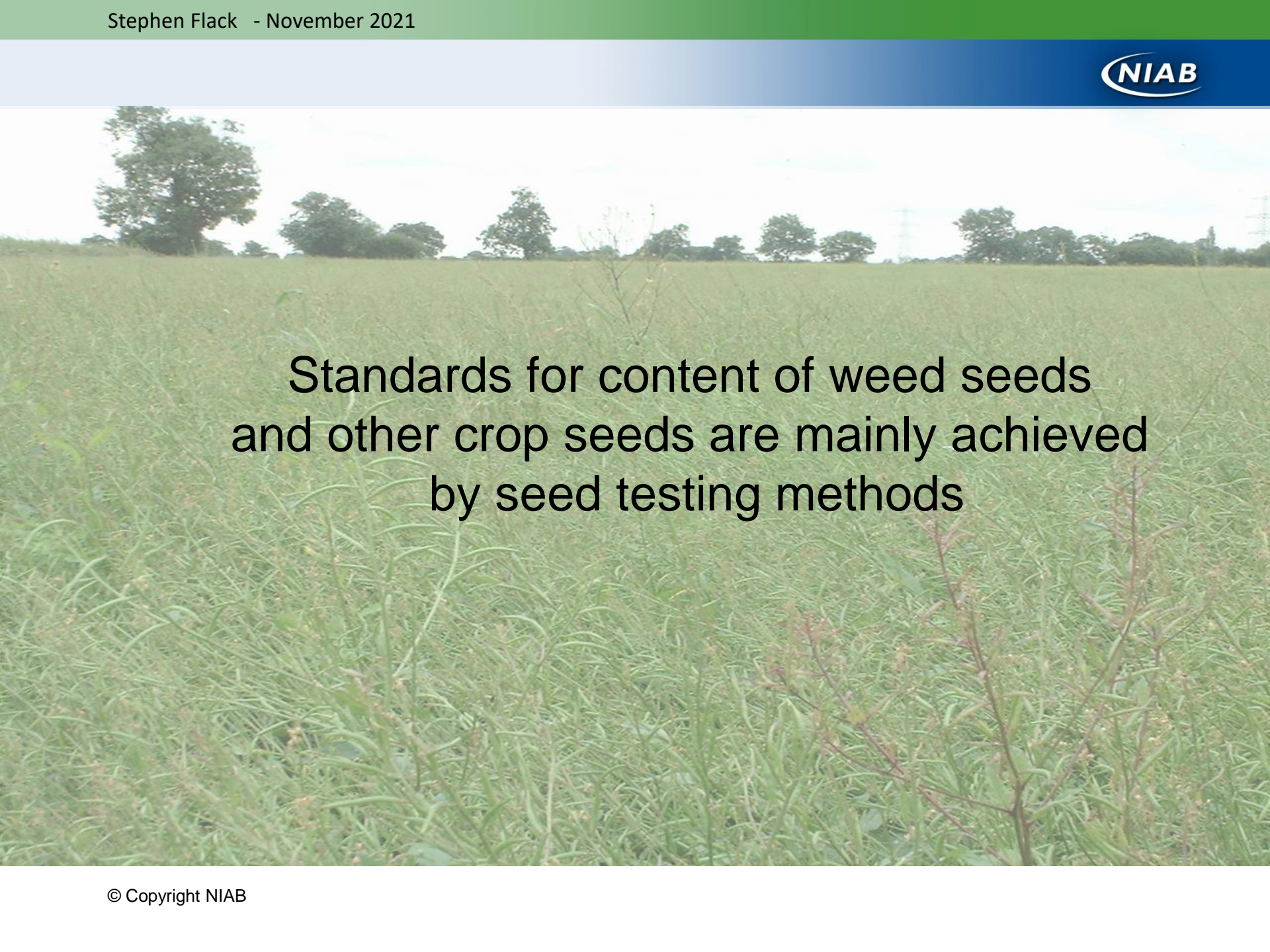
- Certified seeds
  - Field standards
  - Seed standards
- Imported Certified seed
- Other seed for sowing
  - Vegetable seed
  - Farm saved
  - Other



NIAB carries  
out the seed  
certification  
work in  
England and  
Wales  
on behalf of  
DEFRA  
and the Welsh  
Government.





The background of the slide is a photograph of a large field of green crops, likely sorghum, with some weeds visible. The field is in the foreground, and a line of trees is visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

Standards for content of weed seeds  
and other crop seeds are mainly achieved  
by seed testing methods





There are relatively few field standards for the presence of other species of plants in a seed production field.

Field inspection mostly is concerned with the Varietal Identity and Varietal purity of the plants present and their isolation from physical or pollen contamination.

# Field standards which exist include standards for the presence of Wild Oats in cereal seed crops.

## Freedom from wild oat contamination (Table 3)

The maximum number of wild oats permitted per hectare shall be as follows:

Crops to Produce	Basic Seed		CS Seed	C1 seed		C2 seed	
Level (where applicable)	HVS	Minimum	Minimum	HVS	Minimum	HVS	Minimum
Oats	Nil	Nil	N/A	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hybrid of Oats	N/A	Nil	Nil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Barley	7	7	N/A	7	20	7	20
Hybrid of Barley	N/A	7	20	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wheat, durum wheat and spelt wheat	7	7	N/A	7	50	7	50



## Standards for the presence of other *Lolium* Species in a *Lolium* seed crop

... the number of plants of a *Lolium* species or *festulolium*, other than the crop species itself, must not exceed:

(a) one per 50 square metres for the production of Basic seed;

and

(b) one per 10 square metres for the production of CS seed.



## Standards controlled by seed testing – Cereals

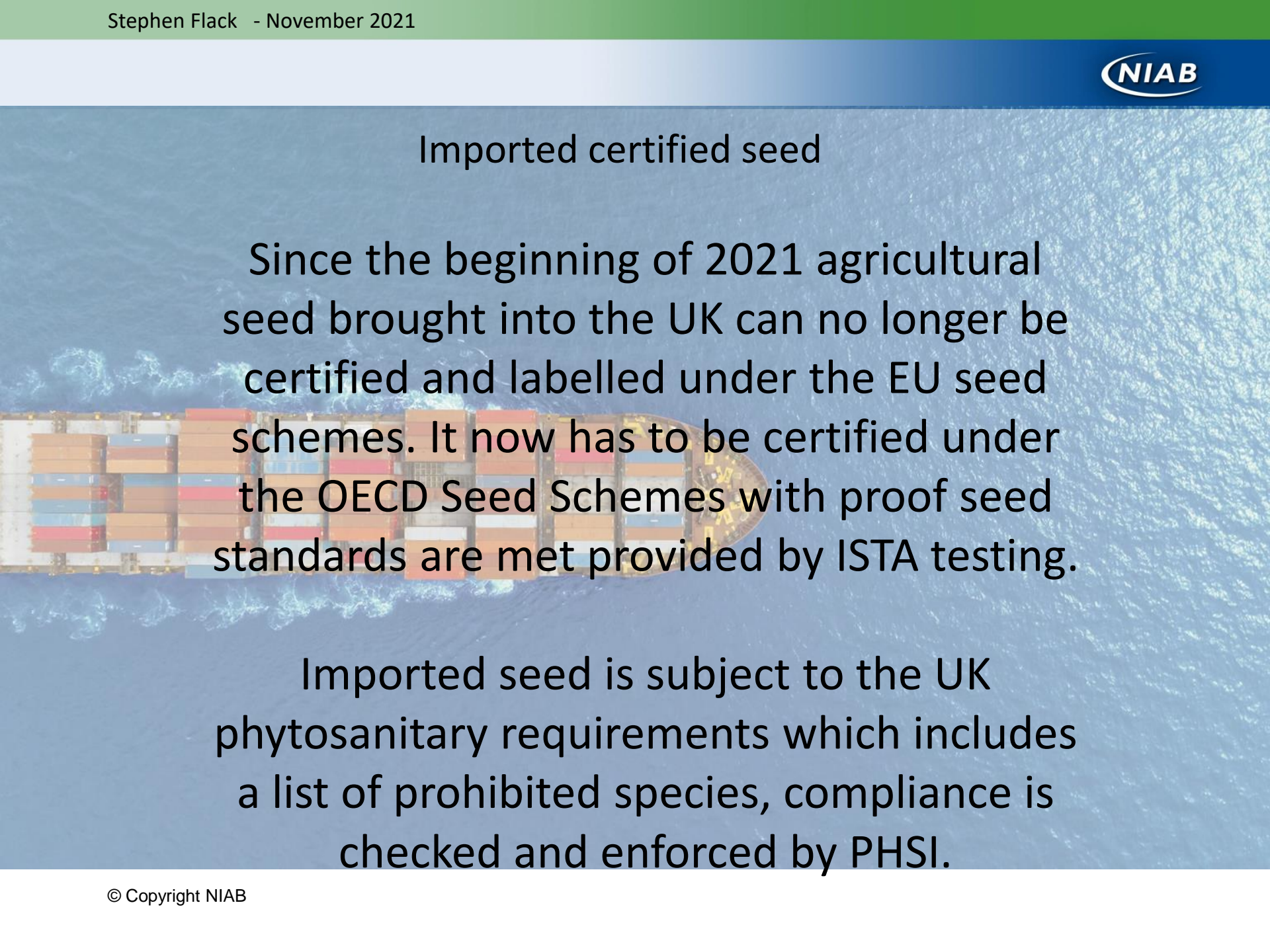
### Maximum content by number of seeds of other plant species (Table 7)

The minimum standards are:

Species	Category and Level (where applicable, see note (a))	Minimum standard - maximum content by number of seeds of other plant species in a <u>500 gram</u> sample (all species except maize) or for maize <u>1,000 gram</u> sample (or for basic seed of inbred lines of maize <u>250 gram</u> sample) HVS (where applicable see note (a)) - maximum content by number of seeds of other plant species in a 1 Kg sample					
		Total all other species	Other cultivated cereal species	All species other than cultivated cereals	Wild oats or Darnel	Wild radish or corn cockle (minimum standard only)	Wild radish, corncockle, sterile brome or couch (HVS only)
All species except maize	Basic HVS (a)	1	0	1	0	Not applicable	0 (d)
	Basic minimum	4	1 (b)	3	0 (c)	1	Not applicable
	CS, C1, C2 minimum	10	7	7	0(c)	3	Not applicable
	C1 HVS	2	1	1	0	Not applicable	1
	C2 HVS	4	3	2	0	Not applicable	1
Maize	Basic and CS	0	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

- (a) HVS applies to barley, durum wheat, oats, spelt wheat and wheat, except hybrids or components of hybrids in each case.
- (b) As regards seeds of other cereal species, a second seed in a 500 gram sample shall not be regarded as an impurity if a second 500 gram sample is free from any seeds of other cereal species.
- (c) The presence of one seed of wild oats or darnel in a 500 gram sample shall not be regarded as an impurity where a second sample of the same weight is free from any seeds of these species.
- (d) The nil standard applies only to wild radish or corncockle in Basic HVS seed

## Imported certified seed

The background of the slide is a photograph of a large cargo ship sailing on the ocean. The ship is viewed from an elevated angle, showing its deck and the stacks of colorful shipping containers in shades of orange, blue, and red. The ship is moving from left to right, leaving a white wake in the blue water.

Since the beginning of 2021 agricultural seed brought into the UK can no longer be certified and labelled under the EU seed schemes. It now has to be certified under the OECD Seed Schemes with proof seed standards are met provided by ISTA testing.

Imported seed is subject to the UK phytosanitary requirements which includes a list of prohibited species, compliance is checked and enforced by PHSI.



## Standards achieved by seed testing – Vegetables

Species	Minimum analytical purity (% by weight)	Maximum content of seeds of other plant species (% by weight)	Minimum germination (% clusters or pure seed)
<i>Allium cepa</i>	97	0,5	70
<b>[F<sup>2</sup> <i>Allium fistulosum</i></b>	97	0,5	<b>65]</b>
<i>Allium porrum</i>	97	0,5	65
<b>[F<sup>2</sup> <i>Allium sativum</i></b>	97	0,5	65
<i>Allium schoenoprasum</i>	97	0,5	<b>65]</b>
<i>Anthriscus cerefolium</i>	96	1	70
<i>Apium graveolens</i>	97	1	70
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	96	0,5	70
<b>[F<sup>3</sup> <i>Beta vulgaris</i> (Garden Beet Group)]</b>	97	0,5	50 (clusters)
<b>[F<sup>3</sup> <i>Beta vulgaris</i> (other than Garden Beet Group)]</b>	97	0,5	70 (clusters)
<b>[F<sup>3</sup> <i>Brassica oleracea</i> (Cauliflower Group)]</b>	97	1	70
<b>[F<sup>3</sup> <i>Brassica oleracea</i> (other than Cauliflower Group)]</b>	97	1	75

## Agricultural Farm Saved Seed

Many farms retain seed from their crops for sowing.

This is not a marketable category of seed in Great Britain

It has no compulsory seed test or maximum permitted levels of weed or other seed.

It is important for the seed to be properly sampled and tested by a qualified seed tester.

A decision whether to use the seed can be based on the test results



# SEED FROM OTHER SOURCES



## Internet sales

A great deal of seed sold over the internet originates from established suppliers in the UK, Europe or beyond

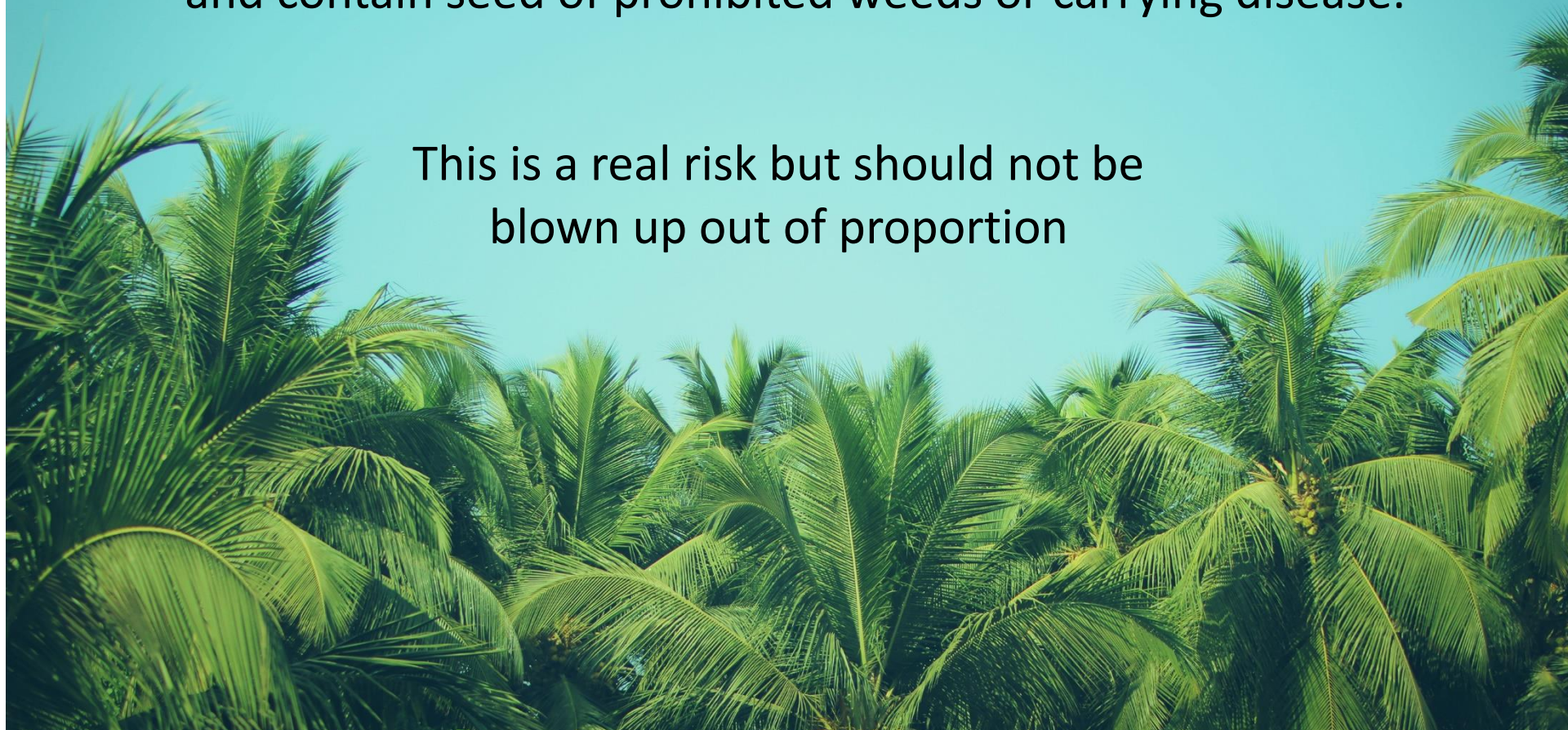
- and meets the standards for seed in this country.



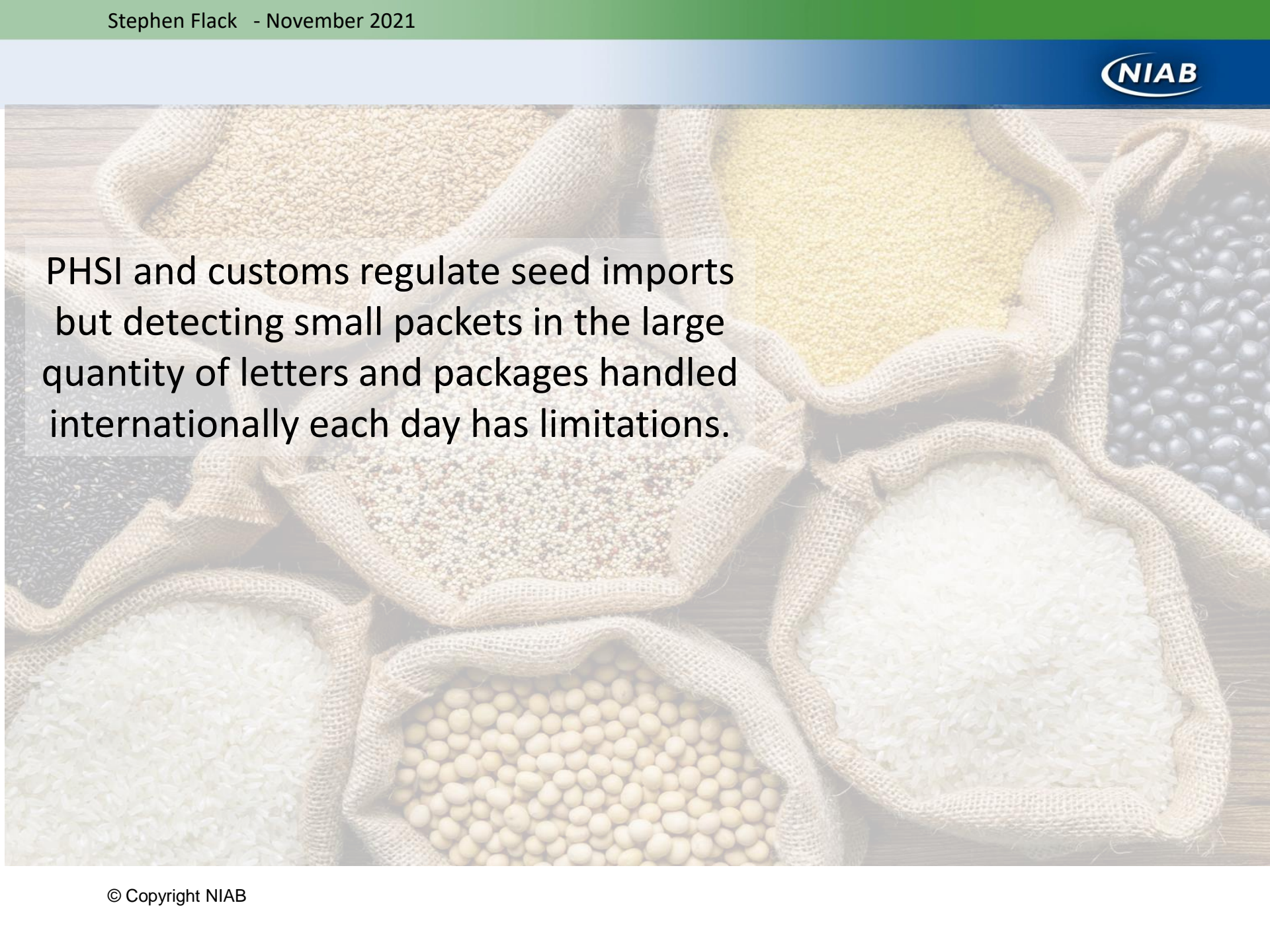
Some seed sold over the internet comes from unknown sources and locations.

Seed from unknown sources may not be subject to quality control and contain seed of prohibited weeds or carrying disease.

This is a real risk but should not be blown up out of proportion





A background image showing several burlap sacks filled with different types of seeds and grains, including rice, beans, and various small seeds, arranged on a wooden surface.

PHSI and customs regulate seed imports but detecting small packets in the large quantity of letters and packages handled internationally each day has limitations.



- ☐ All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.
- ☐ No portion of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.
- ☐ Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.
- ☐ The authors have asserted their rights to be identified as the authors of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.