

GRASS SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

I. APPLICATION AND AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

- A. The General Seed Certification Standards, as adopted by the Wyoming Certification Service, are basic, and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for the certification of grasses.
- B. All classes of Certified seed may be produced from vegetatively propagated planting stock in accordance with the procedure specified by the originator, but in such cases, the standards for vegetatively propagated grasses shall apply.
- C. All brome grass seed stock purchased through the Wyoming Seed Certification Service must be treated to control headsmut.
- D. There will be no certification of new seedlings of quackgrass hybrids with the exception of those that can be differentiated from quackgrass in a seed lab test using morphological criteria.

II. LAND REQUIREMENTS

- A. The production of Foundation seed shall be on land that has not grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous five (5) crop years.
- B. The production of the Registered or Certified classes shall be on land that has not grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous crop year, except a certified class of the same variety equal or superior to that of the crop seeded.

III. HANDLING OF CROP PRIOR TO INSPECTION

A field should be rogued prior to inspection to remove off-type plants and other grasses and weeds, the seed of which cannot be separated mechanically.

IV. FIELD INSPECTION

- A. A seedling inspection shall be made during the seeding year to check for volunteer plants, isolation requirements, and potential weed problems.
- B. Seed fields shall be inspected at least once prior to harvest, preferably after heading when varietal purity or other grass mixtures can best be determined. Harvest operations, including swathing and combining, prior to field inspection or reinspection are cause for rejection of the field.
- C. **Application for certification must be submitted by May 15 of each year in which seed is produced. (Late summer or fall plantings are due within 60 days after planting).**

V. FIELD STANDARDS

A. Unit of Certification

The field shall be considered the unit for certification; a field cannot be divided unless adequately marked.

B. General - Isolation

1. A strip at least five (5) feet wide which is mowed, uncropped, or planted to some crop other than the kind in question shall constitute a field boundary.
2. A seed field of a species eligible for the production of Foundation, Registered or Certified seed must be isolated from any other strain or strains of the same species in bloom at the same time in accordance with the requirements given in the following table:

Type	Border to Be removed (Feet)*	Minimum Isolation - Feet		
		FDN	REG	CERT
Cross pollinated	0	900	300	165**
	9	600	225	100
	15	450	150	75
Strains at least 80% apomictic & highly self- fertile species	0	60	30	15
	9	30	15	15

* Where a border is to be removed, such shall not occur until pollination of the crop to be certified is completed. Border removal applies only to fields of five (5) acres or more.

**** For Certified Class of grass seed only:**

1. Varieties less than 95% apomictic and all other cross pollinating species that have an "isolation zone" of less than 10% of the entire field, no isolation is required. The isolation zone is calculated by multiplying the length of the common border with other varieties of the same kind of grass by the average width of the certified field falling within the 165 feet isolation distance requirement. Fields must be 5 acres or larger to qualify.
2. Varieties that are 95% or more apomictic, as defined by the originating Breeder, shall have the isolation distance reduced to a mechanical separation only.

- C. Varieties or germplasm selections within each of the following species groups must be isolated from each other. Isolation between groups is not required.
- (1) Intermediate and Pubescent Wheatgrasses.
 - (2) All Crested and Siberian Wheatgrasses.
 - (3) Beardless, Bluebunch, R/S Hybrid, Northern, Snake River, Streambank and Thickspike Wheatgrasses and Quackgrass; these must also be isolated from Slender Wheatgrass, Squirreltail, and Blue and Canada Wildryes due to potentially contaminating pollen.
 - (4) Altai, Basin, Beardless, Blue, Beach, Mammoth, Giant, and Salina Wildryes and American Dunegrass.

D. Specific Field Requirements

Factor	Maximum Permitted Ratio of Plants		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Inseparable grass species	1:2000	1:2000	1:500
Other varieties*	1:2000	1:1000	1:300

Prohibited Noxious Weeds (*Lack of evidence of control will be cause for rejection*)

* Other varieties shall be considered to include plants that can be differentiated from the variety that is being inspected.

- (1) Quackgrass: The presence of quackgrass in grass seed fields shall result in the rejection of the field, with the option of reinspection as allowed by WSCS procedures. Growers may swath areas of quackgrass prior to inspection or reinspection, but those areas must also be baled to prevent accidental harvest with the grass seed crop.

The following weeds have a negative impact on seed production of this crop. The weeds marked with an asterisk can impact certification of this crop. The other weeds listed are difficult to separate, and can result in increased seed loss during cleaning. Control of these weeds is recommended.

Canada thistle*, quackgrass*, wild oats*, downy brome, Japanese brome, foxtails, curly dock.

VI. SEED STANDARDS

A. General Seed Standards

Seed Factors	Maximum Permitted in Each Class		
	FDN	REG	CERT
Prohibited Noxious Weeds ⁽²⁾	None ⁽¹⁾	None ⁽¹⁾	None ⁽¹⁾
Restricted Noxious Weeds ⁽³⁾	None ⁽¹⁾	3/lb	6/lb
Other crops including other grass species	0.10%	0.10%	0.50% ⁽⁴⁾
Other varieties	0.10%	0.50%	1.00% ⁽⁵⁾

- (1) None tolerance means none found in the sample submitted. None is not a guarantee to mean the lot inspected is free of the factor.
- (2) None of the Prohibited Noxious Weeds listed in the General Standards nor any dodder, horsenettle or johnsongrass allowed in any class of seed.
- (3) See Restricted Noxious Weed list in the General Standards. Turfgrass varieties eligible to tag shall comply with the kind of limits for Restricted Noxious Weeds as set forth in the above table, except for docks, sheep sorrel and field pennycress: none in Foundation, 15/lb for Registered and 45/lb for the Certified class.
- (4) For Indian Ricegrass - 0.25%.
- (5) Other Kentucky Bluegrass varieties: 2% maximum. Other Perennial Ryegrass varieties: 3% maximum.

B. Specific Seed Standards

SPECIES	TYPE OF REPRODUCTION ¹	PERCENT PURE SEED (minimum)		PERCENT INERT MATTER (maximum)		PERCENT WEED SEED (maximum)		PERCENT TOTAL VIABLE ² (minimum)
		F-R	C	F-R	C	F-R	C	F,R,C
BLUEGRASS:								
Kentucky	A	97	97	3	3	.05	.3	80
Big, Sherman Bluegrass	A	90	90	10	10	.05	.3	70
BROMEGRASS:								
Meadow	C	95	95	5	5	.2	.3	85
Mountain	S	90	90	10	10	.2	.3	85
Smooth	C	95	95	5	5	.2	.3	85
FESCUE:								
Arizona	C	90	90	10	10	.05	.3	50
Hard	C	95	95	5	5	.05	.3	85
Meadow	C	98	98	2	2	.05	.3	85
Red	C	95	95	5	5	.05	.3	85
Sheep	C	95	95	5	5	.05	.3	85
Tall	C	98	98	2	2	.05	.3	85
FOXTAIL, CREEPING	C	80	80	20	20	.25	.5	80
INDIAN RICEGRASS	C	95	90	5	10	.25	.25	80
NEEDLEGRASS, GREEN	S	80	70	20	30	.1	.25	80
ORCHARDGRASS	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	80
PRAIRIE SANDREED	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	70
RYEGRASS:								
Perennial (turf-type)	C	96	97	4	3	.1	.5	85
TIMOTHY	C	98	97	2	3	.1	.25	80
WHEATGRASS:								
Bluebunch, Snake River	C	90	90	10	10	.3	.5	80
Crested	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	80
Intermediate	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	80
Pubescent	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	80
Siberian	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	80
Slender	S	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	80
Streambank	C	90	90	10	10	.2	.3	80
Tall	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	85
Thickspike	C	90	90	10	10	.2	.3	80
Western	C	90	90	10	10	.2	.3	60
WILDRYE:								
Basin	C	90	90	10	10	.2	.3	80
Beardless, manystem	C	90	90	10	10	.2	.3	80
Canada	S	85	85	15	15	.25	.5	70
Mammoth	C	90	90	10	10	.2	.3	80
Russian	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.25	80

¹ C - Cross pollinated species; A - strains at least 80% apomictic; S - Highly self-fertile species.

² Total viability is determined by the addition of germination, dormant and/or hard seed percentages.

Quality Timothy Seed Program

- I. **Seed must be eligible for and labeled as a class of certified seed in order to be eligible for the Quality Timothy Seed Program.**
- II. **In order to be eligible for the supplemental Quality Timothy Seed Program label, the following procedures must be followed and standards must be met:**
- III. **SEED SAMPLING AND TESTING**
 - A. Seed samples must be collected by an official sampler from the Wyoming Seed Certification Service or the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.
 - B. A 50 gram sample must be tested with all seeds other than Timothy identified on the seed test report.
- IV. **SEED STANDARDS**

A. Purity (min)	97%
B. Viability (min)	85%
C. Other Crop (max)	0.2%
D. Weeds (max)	0.02%
- V. **PROHIBITED CROP AND WEED SEEDS:**
 - A. Ryegrass
 - B. Orchardgrass
 - C. Agrostis sp. (bentgrass)
 - D. Poa sp. (bluegrass)
 - E. Brome sp.
 - F. Tall fescue
 - G. Redstem filaree

VII. SEED STANDARDS FOR SOD QUALITY

KIND	PURE SEED (min.)	GERMINATION (min.)	OTHER CROP (max.)*	WEED SEED (max.)***
Kentucky Bluegrass	97%	80%	0.1%**	0.02%
Chewings Fescue	98%	90%	0.1%	0.02%
Red Fescue	98%	90%	0.1%	0.02%

* Must be free of ryegrass, orchardgrass, timothy, bentgrass, big bluegrass, rough bluegrass, smooth brome, reed canarygrass, tall fescue, clover and meadow foxtail.

** Other Kentucky bluegrass: 2% Maximum allowable.

*** None of the Prohibited Noxious Weeds listed in the General Standards, nor any dock, chickweed, crabgrass, plantain, short-awn foxtail, black medic, annual bluegrass, velvetgrass or rattail fescue allowed in any class of seed.

Grass varieties eligible for this special sod quality program shall follow the regular certification specific standards as listed in the above table. Also, a distinct sod quality tag will be attached to the container along with the regular certification tag on eligible seed meeting the added requirements of this high quality program.

VIII. BLEND STANDARDS

DEFINITION: The term blend or blending will be the process of commingling two or more lots of seed to form one uniform quality.

1. A blend data sheet must be supplied listing the lots of the same variety to be used, the analysis of each lot, and the pounds to be used from each lot.
2. The equipment to be used for the blend and the procedure to be followed in blending shall be approved by the certifying agency.
3. A representative of the certifying agency may supervise the blending operation if deemed necessary.
4. Quality standards for certified class means that individual lots to be eligible for blending shall pass certification field standards and shall not exceed the following:
 - a. Inert (maximum) 2 X the amount allowed in certification standards.
 - b. Crop (maximum) 4 X the amount allowed in certification standards.
 - c. Weeds (maximum) 2 X the amount allowed in certification standards.
5. Individual lots of grass seed shall not contain more than 180 per pound of objectionable weeds.
6. Individual lots must be free of Prohibited Noxious Weeds.
7. Blends will be eligible for tagging prior to analysis of the official sample of the blend upon meeting the following conditions:

- a. The calculated percent of impurities (weed, crop, inert, etc.) shall be less than the maximum allowed in Rules for Seed Certification.
- b. The calculated percent of germination should be not less than the minimum germination standards in the Rules for Seed Certification.