

1 Alfalfa Seed Certification Standards

I. Amplification of General Certification Standards

A. The General Certification Standards are amplified as follows to apply specifically to alfalfa seed.

1. The region of adaptation of seed production of a given variety shall be that recommended by the originating plant breeder and, in the United States, meeting the requirements of the National Certified Alfalfa Variety Review Board.

2. Foundation, Registered and Certified seed of alfalfa are produced under a limited generation system as defined in XLI A. Oklahoma growers located below the 36° parallel may produce only the Certified class of alfalfa seed of those varieties adapted to the northern and central regions.

B. For a field of alfalfa to be eligible for certification, the grower must notify the Association during the year of planting that he intends to certify subsequent crops of the stand, although it is not necessary to certify the first or any subsequent year's crops.

II. Land Requirements

A. A crop of the same kind must not have been grown or planted on land for four, three and one year prior to stand establishment for producing the Foundation, Registered and Certified classes, respectively; except two years are required for the production of the certified class of seed of varieties adapted to the northern and central regions following varieties adapted to the southern region.

B. During the year immediately prior to the seeding of any class of seed, the land shall be free from volunteer plants. No manure or other contaminating amendments shall be applied the year previous to seeding or during the established and productive life of the stand.

III. Field Inspection

Each year a seed crop is produced for certification, at least one official field inspection shall be made at such time as to best determine varietal purity.

IV. Field Standards

A. General

1. Unit of certification

The unit of certification shall be filed, but a portion of a field may be approved provided the discarded portion can be harvested separately and is eliminated from certification.

2. Isolation ^{1 2}

To be eligible for certification, an alfalfa seed field must be isolated from other alfalfa fields as follows:

Class	Less than 5 acres	More than 5 acres
Foundation	900 feet	600 feet
Registered	450 feet	300 feet
Certified	165 feet	165 feet ³

¹Isolation distance between classes of the same variety may be reduced to 25% of that indicated.

²Isolation distance for certified seed production shall be at least 500 feet from varieties of dissimilar adaptation.

³If the area of the isolation zone is 10% or less than 10% of the entire field, no isolation is required.

B. Specific Field Requirements

Factor	Standards for each class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other varieties ¹ :Variety	1:100	1:400	1:100
Sweet clover	None	10	160
Other inseparable legumes	None	1 plant per acre	1 plant per acre
Objectionable weeds ²	None	None	None

¹In determining variety or strain purity, plants shall be recognized as impurities only when they can be distinguished with certainty. This also involves flower color and plant characteristics.

²Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), johnsongrass (*Sorghum halepense*), dodder (*Cuscuta ssp.*) and dock (*Rumex spp.*)

V. Referee Sample

A representative one-pound sample of the seed as it is to be sold from each lot shall be submitted to the Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association.

VI. Seed Standards

Factor	Standards for each class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Pure seed (minimum)	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%
Inert matter (maximum)	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Weed seed (maximum)	0.10%	0.20%	0.50%
Objectionable weeds (maximum) ¹	None	9 per lb.	9 per lb.
Prohibited weeds (maximum) ²	None	None	None
Other kinds ³	0.10%	0.10%	0.50%
Other varieties (maximum)	None	0.10%	0.50%
Total germination and hard seed (minimum)	80.00%	80.00%	80.00%

¹The following objectionable weeds may have a tolerance as listed in above table: red or sheep sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*), horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*) and purple night shade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*).

²See Section XLI P.

³Sweetclover seed (maximum): Foundation – none; Registered – 9 per lb; Certified – 18 per lb.