

8 Grass Seed Certification Standards

I. Amplification of General Certification Standards.

For a field of any perennial grass to be eligible for certification, the grower must notify the Association during the year of seeding that he intends to certify subsequent crops although he need not certify the field the first or any subsequent year.

II. Land Requirements

- A. A field to be eligible for the production of Foundation seed must not have grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous five years.
- B. A field to be eligible for the production of Registered or Certified seed must not have grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous year except to a certified class of the same variety equal or superior to that of the crop seeded.

III. Field Inspection

A field inspection must be made each year after the crop is headed but prior to harvest.

IV. Field Standards

A. General

1. Unit of certification

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

2. Isolation

Factor	Minimum isolation distance required (ft.)			
	Symbol	Foundation	Registered	Certified
All cross-pollinated species	C	900	300	165
Strains at least 80% apomictic	a	60	30	15
Strains entirely apomictic	A	60	30	15
Highly self-fertile species	S	60	30	15

These species are classified in paragraph VI, Section B, under Specific Seed Standards.

B. Specific Requirements

Factor	Maximum permitted in each class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other varieties	None	1%	2%

V. Referee Sample

A representative sample of at least one-half pound as the seed is to be sold shall be submitted to the Association for laboratory analysis.

VI. Seed Standards

A. General Seed Standards

Foundation, Registered and Certified seed shall meet the following general standards except for: Certified bromegrass seed which may contain not more than three percent alfalfa, alsike clover, white clover, red clover or their combinations.

Factor	<i>Maximum permitted in each class</i>		
	<i>Foundation</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Certified</i>
Weed Seed (maximum) ¹	0.10%	0.30%	0.50%
Prohibited weeds (maximum) ²	None	None	None
Total other crop seed (maximum)	0.20%	1.00%	2.00%
Other varieties (maximum)	0.10%	1.00%	2.00%
Other kinds (maximum)	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%
(For forage use) (maximum)	0.10%	0.10%	0.50%

¹ Certified grass seed shall contain not more than 0.1 percent cheat.

² See Section XLI P, also, Texas blueweed (*Helianthus ciliaris*), dock (*Rumex spp.*), ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*), red or sheep sorrel *Rumex acetosella*, purple nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*), horsenettle (*Solanum carolinense*), and wild mustard (*Brassica kaber*).

B. Specific Seed Standards

1. Non-chaffy seeded species

Species	Type of reproduction	Percent inert matter (maximum)		Percent weed seed (maximum)		Percent pure seed (minimum)		Percent germination (minimum)
		* F	R C	F	R C	F	R C	
Bromegrass, Smooth (<i>Bromus inermis</i>)	C	15.0	15.0	0.30	1.00	85.0	85.0	80
Fescue, Tall (<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>)	C	5.0	5.0	0.30	0.50	95.0	95.0	80
Lovegrass, Sand (<i>Eragrostis trichodes</i>)	S	2.5	2.5	0.50	1.50	97.5	97.5	75
Lovegrass, Weeping (<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>)	S	3.0	3.0	0.30	0.50	97.0	97.0	80
Orchardgrass (<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>)	C	15.0	15.0	0.30	0.50	85.0	85.0	80
Switchgrass (<i>Panicum virgatum</i>)	C	10.0	10.0	0.50	1.50	90.0	90.0	50
Wheatgrass, Western (<i>Agropyron smithii</i>)	C	15.0	15.0	0.30	0.50	85.0	85.0	70

* Class of seed F = Foundation, R=Registered, C=Certified

2. Chaffy seeded species

Species	Type of reproduction	Pure live seed index ¹
		F R C *
Bluestem, Big (<i>Andropogon gerardi</i>)	C	12
Bluestem, Caucasian (<i>A. caucasicus</i>)	A or S	12
Bluestem, Little (<i>Andropogon scoparius</i>)	C	12
Bluestem, Sand (<i>Andropogon hallii</i>)	C	12
Bluestem, Turkestan (<i>A. ischaemum</i>)	A or S	12
Buffalograss (<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>)	C	8 (burs)
Buffalograss (<i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>)	C	60 (treated or dehulled)
Grama, Blue (<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>)	C	24
Grama, Side-oats (<i>B. curtipendula</i>) ²	C & A	30
Indian grass (<i>Sorghastrum nutans</i>)	C	15

* Class of seed F = Foundation, R=Registered, C=Certified

¹Pure live seed index equals percent purity times percent germination divided by 100.

²In determining germination for side-oats grama, the seed unit shall be defined as a spike containing one or more caryopses.