



Oregon Seed Certification Service

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Extension Service

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
ALFALFA
(Medicago sativa)
 Revised February 15, 1994

Certification Standards: The general standards for seed certification found in the Oregon Seed Certification Service (OSCS) Handbook are basic to all crops, and together with the following specific regulations constitute the certified Alfalfa standards.

Varieties Certified: Varieties and classes eligible for planting may be found in the OSCS Handbook.

Field History: Land must be free from volunteer Alfalfa before planting for at least 4 years to produce Foundation seed, for at least 3 years to produce Registered seed, and for at least 1 year to produce Certified seed. At least two years must elapse between destruction of indistinguishable varieties or varieties of dissimilar adaptation and establishment of the stand for the production of the certified class of seed. Dissimilar adaptation will be determined as a difference of four or more fall dormancy values between that of the previous variety and the variety being planted. Fall dormancy values will be determined from descriptions prepared by the breeder for accepted varieties. (See section C for further details). With Registered and Certified fields, the time interval between harvest and new planting must be one year if the previous crop was of the same variety and generation. Alfalfa must be planted in distinct rows. Exceptions must be approved by the Seed Certification office prior to planting.

Field Inspections: Include a seedling and a seed crop inspection. The seedling application must be submitted within 60 days of planting and a seedling applications for fields planted between January 1 and July 1 must be filed within 15 days of planting and a seed crop application must be submitted by June 15 of each year in which seed is produced.

Field Standards:

Class of seed produced	Maximum permitted			Isolation Requirements ¹	
	Other varieties ²	Sweet Clover	Red Clover	Less than 5 acres	More than 5 acres
Foundation	0.1%	None	None	900 ft.	600 ft.
Registered	0.25%	10 plants/acre	None	450 ft.	300 ft.
Certified	1.0%	10 plants/acre	--	165 ft.	165 ft.
Only 10 ft. isolation is required between seed fields of different classes but of the same variety.					
No White top, Leafy spurge, nor Russian knapweed allowed in any class of seed.					
For Certified class only: When the isolation zone (which is calculated by multiplying the length of the common border with varieties of Alfalfa by the average width of the Certified field falling within 165 ft. isolation distance requirement) is less than 10% for the entire field, no isolation is required.					

Special Requirements:

- a. CUF 101 limited to one harvest – must be same year as planting.

Seed Standards: (Minimum Sample Size – 1 Pound)

Factor	Foundation (White tag)	Registered (Purple tag)	Certified (Blue tag)
Pure seed, minimum	99.00%	99.00%	99.00%
Other crops, maximum	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%
Sweet Clover, maximum	None	45/lb.	90/lb.
Inert matter, maximum	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Weed seed, ^{3,4} maximum	0.10%	0.20%	0.25%
Weed seed, GROUP A ⁵ , singly or combined	45/lb.	45/lb.	45/lb.
Germination, including hard seed	85%	85%	85%

1 See section IV, D in the OSCS Handbook.

2 Includes off-type plants.

3 See section IX, D4 in the OSCS Handbook.

4 None of the prohibited weeds listed in section V in the OSCS Handbook, nor St. Johnswort is allowed

5 GROUP A – Buckhorn plantain, Docks, Sheep sorrel, and Bedstraw.