



Oregon Seed Certification Service

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Extension Service

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
TALL FESCUE
(Festuca arundinacea)
 Revised February 16, 1995

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 Tall Fescue standards.

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

Field History: Land must not have grown or been seeded to any Tall Fescue during the previous five years to be eligible to produce Foundation seed. Land must not have grown or been seeded to these grasses during the previous 18 months to produce Registered or Certified seed unless the previous crop was of the same variety and class, and certified. Tall fescue 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 seed crop application must be submitted by April 15 of each year in which seed is produced.

Field Standards:

Class of seed produced	Maximum permitted Other Varieties ¹	Isolation Requirements ²	
		Less than 5 acres	More than 5 acres
Foundation	None	900 ft.	900 ft.
Registered	0.5%	660 ft.	300 ft.
Certified	1.0%	330 ft.	165 ft.

Seed Standards: (Minimum Sample Size – 1/2 Pound)

Factor	Foundation (White tag)	Registered (Purple tag)	Certified (Blue tag)
Pure seed, minimum	98.00%	98.00%	98.00%
Other crops, maximum	0.10%	0.10%	0.50%
Inert matter, maximum	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Weed seed ³ , maximum	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%
Weed seed, GROUP A ⁴ , singly or combined	None	27/lb.	27/lb.
Germination, minimum	85%	85%	85%
Germination, minimum Alta, Fawn, Kentucky 31	90%	90%	90%

¹ Includes off-type plants.

² See section IV, D in the OSCS Handbook.

³ None of the prohibited weeds listed in section V in the OSCS Handbook, nor St. Johnswort is allowed in any class of seed.

⁴ GROUP A – Buckhorn plantain, Docks, Sheep sorrel, and Bedstraw.