



**Oregon Seed Certification Service**

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Extension Service

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS  
**SMALL GRAINS**  
 Revised: February 14, 2006

**Certification Standards:** 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 Small Grain standards.

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

**Field History:** For **Foundation Seed** - Land must not have grown a small grain variety of the same kind (for example, Wheat to Wheat) for two years; land must be 3 years out of Triticale prior to producing a Foundation class of Wheat. For **Registered & Certified Seed** - Land must not have been seeded to, grown and/or harvested for a small grain of the same kind (for example, Wheat to Wheat) for at least 12 months. Where an indistinguishable variety of small grain of the same kind was grown between the previous 12 and 24 month period, a seedling inspection is necessary on all new cereal plantings (for example, Stephens to ORCF-101 Wheat). If the previous crop was of the same variety and passed certification field standards for varietal purity at the same or higher generation, then the above time intervals are not necessary. Where a distinguishable variety of small grain of the same kind was grown between the previous 12 and 24 month period, no seedling inspection is necessary on new plantings of cereals (for example, Yamhill to Stephens Wheat). **All Seed Classes** - Small grains must be planted in distinct rows. Exceptions must be approved by the Seed Certification Office prior to planting.

**Application and Field Inspections.** Application for seedling inspection must be submitted within 60 days of fall planting (or earlier, if row closure is expected to occur rapidly), or within 15 days of spring planting. Application for crop inspection must be submitted by April 15 for small grains planted on or before January 31; for plantings after January 31, the deadline is June 1, or within 15 days of planting, whichever occurs last. Crop inspection will be completed after plant and head maturity show specific variety distinguishing characteristics. Stock seed documentation shall be either: (1) all tags, (2) one tag for each lot and a copy of the sales invoice [showing the receiver, variety and crop, poundage, lot number(s), generation, and date of sale], (3) bulk shipping certificate if seed was self produced, or purchased at the first point of sale, (4) copy of original bulk shipping certificate, plus subsequent sales invoice, if purchased at a subsequent point of sale, (5) an OSCS "Replacement/Partial Bag Tag" and a sales invoice for Foundation seed shipped in a bulk bag and divided for further distribution, or (6) a transfer certificate for seed pending final certification. Volunteer fields are not eligible for seed certification.

**Field Standards:**

Seedling Inspection (when required)	Maximum permitted in each class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other varieties total	None	0.01%	0.03%

**Seed Crop Inspection:**

Factor	Maximum permitted in each class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other varieties total	None	0.02% (1/5,000)	0.05% (1/2,000)
Other small grains <sup>1, 2</sup> (incl. Wild oats)	None	0.01% (1/10,000)	0.02% (1/5,000)
Chemically controllable cereal smuts <sup>3</sup>	0.01% (1/10,000)	0.01% (1/10,000)	0.10% (1/1,000)
Non-controllable cereal smuts	None	None	None
Prohibited weeds ( <i>Lack of evidence of control will be cause for rejection</i> )			

<sup>1</sup> No Cereal rye allowed in or out of count during seed crop inspection, except in the Certified class of Triticale and then not to exceed 1:20,000.

<sup>2</sup> No Triticale allowed in "other small grains" in or out of the inspection count in any class of small grain; further, no re-inspection is allowed in the Foundation class of Wheat.

<sup>3</sup> For a list of chemically controllable cereal smuts, see Pacific Northwest Plant Disease Control Handbook.

**Special Requirements:**

- A.** An extremely weedy field, regardless of type of weeds present, will be rejected. In Foundation fields, no seed may be allowed to form of species listed as 'Prohibited in all Oregon Certified Seeds' (see Sec. V, this Handbook) and listed below in footnote 2 of Seed Standards, and of Vetch. Other provisions in the Small Grain standards regarding Cereal rye, Jointed goatgrass and Skeletonweed take precedence.
- B.** Isolation (Wheat, Oat, or Barley – self pollinating cereal crops) – (1) Adjacent fields of different cereal crop kinds, or different classes of the same variety, must be isolated by a distance adequate to prevent mechanical mixing. (2) Adjacent fields of different varieties of the same kind must be isolated 90 feet for Foundation production, or 10 feet for Registered or Certified production.
- C.** Isolation (Cereal rye) — All classes of Rye must be isolated 660 feet from other varieties of Rye. Fields of the same variety but of a different generation must be isolated by a distance of 25 percent of that listed between varieties.
- D.** Isolation (Triticale) — Triticale must be isolated from other Triticale varieties 900 feet for production of the Foundation generation, and 300 feet for Registered and Certified generations. Fields of the same variety but of a different generation must be isolated by a distance of 25 percent of that listed between varieties. Isolation from Wheat and Rye must be 90 feet for Foundation and Registered generations, and a mechanical break for Certified production. Triticale must be isolated with a mechanical break from small grains other than Wheat and Rye.
- E.** Evidence of seed-borne disease at the time of field inspection or presence of seed-borne disease in the seed lot may constitute basis for rejection, reclassification or recommendation for seed treatment. Evidence of ergot found during field inspection will be noted in the inspection report.
- F.** If chemically controllable seedborne diseases are noted upon field inspection or Laboratory examination, appropriate seed treatment, to be determined by Seed Certification Office is required.
- G.** Transfer of seed pending final certification is possible under certain conditions. Information about these procedures is available from the Seed Certification Office.
- H.** No re-inspection is allowed if Jointed goatgrass or Skeletonweed is found in the seedling, seed crop, or seed test inspection.
- I.** Reseeding with another variety or lower generation within a field applied for certification will necessitate that the boundaries of the certified portion be redrawn to completely exclude reseeded areas. Application for a seedling inspection is required to verify that the certified portion is free of contamination from the reseeded and properly isolated from the reseeded areas(s).
- J.** Bagged Foundation or Registered cereal seed must be in new bags; bagged Certified class seed must be in new or cleaned used bags.

**Seed Standards: (Minimum Sample Size -- 2 Pounds, As of July 1, 1993, treated cereal seed will not be accepted by the OSU Seed Laboratory for purity testing.) No Retests Permitted.**

Factor	Foundation (White tag)	Registered (Purple tag)	Certified (Blue tag)
Pure seed, minimum	98.00%	98.00%	98.00%
Off-type and/or other cereal, maximum (determined on 500 grams, also see footnote 2.)	None	2/lb.	4/lb.
Other crops excluding other cereals, maximum	None	0.03%	0.05%
Inert matter <sup>4</sup> , maximum	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Ergot	0.05%	0.05%	0.05%
Smut balls	None	None	None
Weed seed <sup>5</sup> , maximum	0.01%	0.01%	0.03%
Wild oats	None	None	None (1/lb. in Oats)
Germination, minimum	85%	85%	85%

<sup>4</sup> Wheat shall contain no more than 1.00% inert matter other than broken Wheat seed.

<sup>5</sup> None of the prohibited weeds listed in section V in the OSCS Handbook, nor any Buckhorn plantain, Docks, Sheep sorrel, St. Johnswort, or Bedstraw allowed in any class of Certified seed.

- 500 gram sample will be used for noxious weed, Ergot, Smutball and Vetch exam *except that a 2 lb. sample shall be inspected for noxious weeds and other cereals in Foundation class cereals.*
- Seed which contains a contaminant with "0" or "None" tolerance must be re-cleaned before being re-sampled. (Except as noted V.H. above).
- Foundation seed will be tested and labeled to indicate seeds per pound.
- No Vetch nor Cereal rye allowed in "other cereals", except Cereal rye in the Certified class of Triticale not to exceed 1/lb.
- Immature and/or mature seeds of the weeds listed in section V in the OSCS Handbook, are prohibited in certified seed.