

ALFALFA STANDARDS

I. Application and Amplification of General Certification Standards

The General Seed Certification Standards, as adopted by the Colorado Seed Growers Association, are basic, and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for certification of alfalfa seed.

II. Limitations

Limitations on the age of stand and pedigree classes of seed through which a given variety can be multiplied for both inside and outside the region of adaptation shall be specified by the originator or his designee. Certified seed production outside the region of adaptation shall not exceed six years if not otherwise specified by the originator or his designee.

- A. The northern alfalfa region includes that part of Colorado located north of the 40th parallel.
- B. The central alfalfa region includes that part of Colorado located south of the 40th parallel.

III. Land Requirements

- A. A crop of the same kind must not have been grown or planted on the land for four, three and one year(s) prior to stand establishment for producing the Foundation, Registered and Certified classes, respectively; 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 nor during the established and productive life of the stand.

IV. Handling Crop Prior to Inspection

Roguing to remove off-type plants, sweet clover and dodder and other noxious weeds is required prior to field inspection.

V. Field Inspection

A seedling inspection shall be made during the first season of planting. A field inspection shall be made after the crop is in bloom each year that certification is requested.

VI. Field Standards

A. General

- 1. Unit of certification - A portion of a field may be Certified if the area to be Certified is clearly defined. Portions of a field not meeting isolation requirements for certification must not be harvested as any certified class of seed.
- 2. Isolation - A field producing Foundation, Registered or Certified seed must have the minimum isolation distance from fields of any other variety or fields of the same variety that do not meet the varietal purity and generation requirements for certification, as follows:

a. Isolation distance

Seed class	<u>Isolation distance</u>	
	Fields over 5 acres	Fields 5 acres or less
Foundation	600 feet	900 feet
Registered	300 feet	450 feet
Certified*	165 feet*	165 feet*

*Isolation requirements for the certified class are based on the size of the certified field and the percentage of the field within 165 feet of another variety of alfalfa. If 10 percent or less of the certified field is within the 165-foot isolation zone, no isolation is required -- only a definite separation. If more than 10 percent of the field is within the isolation zone, that part of the field must not be harvested as certified seed. The isolation zone is that area calculated by multiplying the length of the common border(s) with other

varieties of alfalfa by the average width of the certified alfalfa field falling within the 165-foot isolation distance requirement.

In those cases where a portion of a field meets isolation requirements, a clear line of demarcation shall be established between the Certified and noncertified portions of the field.

- b. Isolation distance for Certified seed production of varieties adapted to the northern and central regions shall be 500 feet from varieties adapted to the southern region of adaptation.
 - c. Isolation distance between classes of the same variety may be reduced to 25% of that indicated above.
3. Volunteer plants - Volunteer plants may be cause for rejection or reclassification of a seed field.

B. Specific Requirements

Factor	Maximum permitted in each class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other varieties (ratio of plants) ¹	1:1000	1:400	1:100
Sweet clover (plants per acre)	None	10	160
Dodder and other noxious weeds	*	*	*

¹ Other varieties shall include off-type plants that can be differentiated from the variety being inspected.

* Fields must show that a reasonable effort has been made to control dodder and other noxious weeds. Due to the modern cleaning equipment now available, a tolerance is permitted in the field, but the seed standards permit no tolerance of noxious weeds.

VII. Sampling for Laboratory Analysis

A representative one-pound sample shall be submitted to the Colorado Seed Growers Association for analysis. This sample shall represent the seed which will be sold. If lots of different quality are offered for sale, a sample of each lot must be submitted for analysis.

VIII. 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	0.20
Noxious weed seed (maximum)	None	None	None
Total other crop seed ¹ (maximum)	0.10	0.10	0.50
Germination and hard seed (minimum)	80.00	85.00	85.00

¹ Sweet clover seed shall not exceed 9 per pound for Foundation seed, 90 per pound for Registered seed and 180 per pound for Certified seed.