

**POLICIES AND PROCEEDURES  
FOR CERTIFICATION OF GRASS IN IDAHO (rev 2023)**

Renewal Due May 1st

Seedling Application Due 60 Days after Planting

I. Application and Amplification of General Policies and Procedures.

- A. The General Policies and Procedures as adopted by the Idaho Crop Improvement Association, Inc. are basic and together with the following specific policies and procedures constitute the policies and procedures for certification of grass seed. Land, Isolation, Field, and Seed Standards imbedded within these policies and procedures are referenced to IDAPA 08.05.01

II. Land Requirements (rules covering land prior to planting).

A. Field Eligibility.

1. 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 (5) years. Upon the approval of the certifying agency, with the use of fumigants and other ground short-term sterilization chemicals, the five (5) year eligibility may be waived to three (3) years.
2. A field to be eligible for the production of registered seed, must not have grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous three (3) years.
3. A field to be eligible for the production of certified seed, must not have grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous three (3) years, except for foundation, registered or certified seed of the same variety, of equal or higher class.
4. Bermudagrass - Field Eligibility.  
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 (5) years, and must have included a cultivated crop for three (3) years. A field to be eligible for production of registered or certified seed, must not have grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous three (3) years and must have included a cultivated crop for three (3) years unless the crop was the same variety and passed field inspection for certification.
5. Reseeding of a field because of failure or partial failure of the first stand may be done with the permission of Idaho Crop Improvement Association, Inc.

6. Apomictic varieties of certified class producing bluegrass entered into the

certification program and field inspected and approved the prior year, and/or all PVP varieties with the breeder's permission, or his representative, may be chemically burned-down. The field may be planted with a non-contaminating annual crop for one (1) season, then may continue in the certification program for subsequent harvest with permission from Idaho Crop Improvement Association, Inc.

B. Reinspection.

1. Idaho Crop Improvement Association, Inc. will charge a fee of \$80 for the first reinspection of a rejected field. If the field or any portion of that field is again rejected, the fee charged for the second reinspection would be on a case by case basis. In addition, a fee of \$1 per acre would be imposed based on the total acreage of that field.

III. Field Standards.

A. General Requirements.

1. Unit of Certification.  
A seed field shall be considered the unit of certification. A strip at least five (5) feet in width and which is mowed, uncropped or planted to some crop other than the kind in question shall constitute a field boundary, of certified class varieties at least 95% apomictic.
2. Isolation.  
A seed field of a species to be eligible for the production of foundation, registered or certified seed must be isolated from any other strain or strains of the same species in bloom at the same time in accordance with the requirement given in the following table:

Factor	Minimum Isolation Distance Required (feet)			
	Symbol	Foundation	Registered	Certified
All cross-pollinated species	C	990	330	165
Strains at least 80% apomictic*	A	165	33	16.5
Highly self-fertile species	S	165	33	16.5
Texas Bluegrass Spp.	C	1420	1420	1420

\*Refers to a type of asexual production of seed as in Kentucky Bluegrass.

For fields of certified class cross pollinated species, when the isolation zone (which is calculated by multiplying the length of the common border with other varieties by the average width of the certified field falling within 165 feet isolation distance requirement) is less than 10% of the entire field, only mechanical isolation is required.

3. Isolation.  
Fields or portions of fields for certification must be isolated from bermudagrass other than the same variety as follows: foundation - 990 feet; registered - 330 feet; certified - 165 feet. All fields must have a definite boundary such as a fence, ditch, roadway, levee, or a barren strip 165 feet wide.
4. Bermuda grass - Field Inspection.  
In foundation fields, no off-types or other varieties are permitted, and only 1% by area is permitted in the certified class. Fields must be controlled to prevent seed formation.

B. Specific Requirements.

Factor	Maximum permitted in each class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other varieties* and/or other grass species	None <sup>1</sup>	0.5%	2.0%

\*Other varieties shall be considered to include plants that can be differentiated from the variety that is being inspected.

<sup>1</sup>None tolerance means none found during the normal inspection procedures and is not a guarantee to mean the field inspected is free of the factor.

# IV. Seed Standards.

## A. Specific Seed Standards.

TR = Type of Reproduction F&R = Foundation & Registered F,R&C = Foundation, Registered & Certified		Factors											
		PS = Pure Seed (minimum) %						IM = Inert Matter (maximum) %					
		WS = Weed Seed (maximum) %						OC = Other Crop (maximum) %					
		G = Germination (minimum) %						OG = Other Grass (maximum) species/gram					
		PS		IM		WS <sup>1</sup>		OC <sup>2,7</sup>		G	OG		
Species	T R	F&R	C	F&R	C	F&R	C	F&R	C	F,R&C	F	R	
<b>Bluegrass</b>													
Kentucky	A	97	97	3	3	.05	.3	.1	.5	80	1/10	1/1	
Merion	A	92	92	8	8	.05	.3	.1	.5 <sup>3</sup>	80	1/10	2/1	
Canada	A	96	92	4	8	.05	.3	.1	.5	80	1/10	1/1	
Upland	A	96	92	4	8	.05	.3	.1	.5	80			
Sherman (Big)	A	90	90	10	10	.05	.3	.1	.5	70	1/10	1/1	
<b>Bromegrass</b>													
Meadow	C	95	95	5	5	.05	.5	.1	.5	85	1/50	10/50	
Smooth	C	95	95	5	5	.05	.5	.1	.5	85	1/50	10/50	
Bermudagrass	C	97	97	3	3	.1	.2 <sup>4</sup>	.10	.25	85			
<b>Fescue</b>													
Meadow	C	95	97	5	3	.05	.3 <sup>11</sup>	.1	.5	85	1/50	10/50	
Tall	C	95	97	5	3	.03	.3 <sup>11</sup>	.1	.5	F&R 80	C 85	2/50	10/50
Hard	C	95	95	5	5	.05	.3 <sup>11</sup>	.1	.5	85	1/50	5/50	
Idaho	C	95	95	5	5	.05	.3 <sup>11</sup>	.1	.5	70	1/50	5/50	
Red	C	95	95	5	5	.05	.3 <sup>11</sup>	.1	.5	85	1/50	5/50	
Sheep <sup>6</sup>	C	95	95	5	5	.03	.3 <sup>11</sup>	.1	.5	80	1/50	1/50	
Orchardgrass	C	90	90	10	10	.03	.3 <sup>11</sup>	.1	.5	80	3/50	10/50	
Ricegrass, Indian	S	95	90	5	10	.3	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Ryegrass, Perennial (Turf Type)	C	96	97	4	3	.1	.5	.1	.5 <sup>5</sup>	85	1/50	5/50	
Tall Oatgrass	C	90	90	10	10	.3	.5	.5	1.0	70			
Timothy	C	97	97	3	3	.1	.5	.1	.5	80	1/50	5/50	
<b>Wheatgrass</b>													
Crested	C	95	95	5	5	.1	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Intermediate	C	95	95	5	5	.1	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Siberian	C	95	95	5	5	.1	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Streambank	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Tall	C	95	95	5	5	.1	.5	.5	1.0	85	1/50	5/50	
Pubescent	C	95	95	5	5	.1	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Beardless	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Western	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.5	.5	1.0	60	1/50	5/50	
Bluebunch/ Snake River	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Thickspike	C	90	90	10	10	.1	.5	.5	1.0	80	1/50	5/50	
Slender	C	95	95	5	5	.1	.3 <sup>11</sup>	.1	.5	80	1/50	5/50	
Wildrye, Basin	C	90	90	10	10	.3	.5	.5	1.0	80			
Bentgrass	C	98	98	2	2	.3	.4 <sup>8,9</sup>	.2	.6 <sup>10</sup>	85			
Redtop	C	92	92	8	8	.5	.5	.5	2.0	80			
Small Burnett	C	95	95	5	5	.5	.5	1.0	1.0	85			

<sup>1</sup>Grasses eligible to tag shall comply with the kind of limits for primary and secondary noxious weeds as set forth in the Idaho State Seed Law, except for sheep sorrel, and pennycress: none in foundation; 45 per pound for registered; 90 per pound for certified; wild oat, none in foundation; 9 per pound for registered; and 18 per pound for certified.

<sup>2</sup>Not to exceed .1% other grass species for foundation or registered seed or .25% for certified except as indicated by (3). Maximum .01% Giant Bermudagrass allowable in foundation.

<sup>3</sup>A 3% tolerance of other Kentucky Bluegrass varieties will be allowed in Merion. (Note: containing minimum 92% Merion). In a Kentucky bluegrass other than Merion, 2% of varieties other than the variety certified will be allowed. In Canada bluegrass 3% Kentucky bluegrass will be permitted.

<sup>4</sup>Maximum .05% of the following specific grasses: Sprangle top, Lovegrass, Sanddrop seed. Maximum seed permitted of Featherfinger/Feathergrass and Rhodegrass - 36 per pound, either alone or in combination.

<sup>5</sup>Acceptable maximum fluorescence allowed is 3% in blue tag turf-type perennial ryegrass and 2% in blue tag annual ryegrass.

<sup>6</sup>Maximum other grass species in certified class is .25%.

<sup>7</sup>Ammonia test is required to determine presence of other fine fescue species in Hard fescue and Sheep fescue.

<sup>8</sup>Blue tag seed shall not contain over 907 seeds per pound, singly or collectively, of the following weeds: Plantago spp., Big Mouse-ear Chickweed, Yarrow, Spotted Cat's ear, and Dandelion.

<sup>9</sup>A maximum of 0.5% weed seed may be allowed in blue tag bentgrass containing silver hairgrass: PROVIDED, that the total of all other weed seed does not exceed 0.4%.

<sup>10</sup>1.5% other fine bentgrasses and 0.5% redtop may be allowed in blue tag bentgrass containing a minimum of 98% total bentgrass.

<sup>11</sup>A tolerance of 0.50% may be allowed for samples containing weedy Bromus spp. provided the total of all other weed seeds does not exceed 0.30%

None tolerance means none found during the normal inspection procedures. None is not a guarantee to mean the lot inspected is free of the factor.

## V. Seed Standards for Sod Quality.

Variety	Pure Seed (min)	Germination (min)	Other Crop (max)*	Weed Seed (max)***
Tall Fescue-Turf	98%	85%	0.1 %	.02%
Kentucky Bluegrass	97%	80%	0.1%**	.02%
Red Fescue	98%	85%	0.1%	.02%
Perennial Ryegrass	98%	90%	0.1%	.02%
Chewings Fescue	98%	85%	0.1%	.02%

\*Must be free of ryegrass, orchardgrass, timothy, bentgrass, big bluegrass, canby bluegrass, Sandberg bluegrass, *Poa trivialis*, all species of *Bromus*, reed canarygrass, tall fescue, clover, meadow foxtail, bermudagrass (unless it is crop being tested), Black Medic, Alkaligrass, all of the genus *Puccinellia*.

\*\*Canada Bluegrass .02% - maximum allowable. Red Fescue and Chewings Fescue must be free of Canada Bluegrass.

\*\*Other Kentucky bluegrass - maximum 2%.

\*\*\*Must be free of dock, chickweed, crabgrass, plantain, short-awn foxtail, annual bluegrass, all species of *Bromus*, velvetgrass, rattail fescue, and all weeds prohibited in the General Policies and Procedures, Section VIII, page General-9, Paragraph C.

Grass varieties eligible for this special sod quality program follow the regular certification specific standards as listed above.

A sod seed analysis certificate based on a 25 gram purity examination for Kentucky bluegrass, 30 gram purity examination for Red and Chewings fescue, 50 gram purity examination for Perennial ryegrass and Tall fescue, and a 10 gram *Poa annua* examination will be issued on eligible seed. Also a distinct sod quality tag will be attached to the container along with the regular certification tag on eligible seed meeting the added requirements of this high quality program.

## VI. Blend Standards.

Definition: The term "blend" or "blending" will be the process of co-mingling two or more lots of seed to form one lot of uniform quality.

- A. A blend data sheet must be supplied listing the lots of the same variety to be used, the analysis of each lot, and the pounds to be used from each lot.
- B. The equipment to be used for the blend and the procedure to be followed in blending shall be approved by the certifying agency.
- C. A representative of the certifying agency may supervise the blending operation if deemed necessary.
- D. Quality standards for certified class means that individual lots to be eligible for blending shall pass certification field standards and shall not exceed the following

1. Inert (maximum) 2 times the amount allowed in certification standards.
  2. Crop (maximum) 4 times the amount allowed in certification standards.
  3. Weeds (maximum) 2 times the amount allowed in certification standards.
- E. Individual lots of grass seed shall not contain more than 180 per pound of objectionable weeds.
- F. Individual lots must be free of prohibited noxious weeds.
- G. Blends will be eligible for tagging prior to analysis of the official sample of the blend upon meeting the following conditions:
1. The calculated percent of impurities (weed, crop, inert, etc.) shall be less than the maximum allowed in Rules for Seed Certification.
  2. The calculated percent of germination should be not less than the minimum germination standards in the Rules for Seed Certification.