

BAHIAGRASS SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

I. Application and Amplification of General Certification Standards

- A. The General Seed Certification Standards, as adopted by the association are basic and together with the following specific standards constitute the rules for certification of grasses.
- B. The General Standards are amplified as follows to apply specifically to grass seed.
 - 1. Handling of crop prior to inspection: Field should be rouged prior to blooming to remove off-type plants and prior to harvest to remove other grasses or weeds, which the seeds cannot be separated by mechanical means.

II. Land Requirements

- A. The following provisions may be modified when an experiment station supervises the reproduction of a strain or strains entering into a specific variety.
 - 1. A field to be eligible for the production of foundation seed must never have grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous five years, and must be free of bahiagrass and other contaminates.
 - 2. A field to be eligible for the production of registered or certified seed must not have grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous year, and must be free of bahiagrass and other contaminates at time of inspection. Unless the field has been seeded with foundation seed of the same variety in previous years and field has been in cultivation during years that the field was not in certification program.
 - 3. A field inspection must be made prior to planting of seed.
 - 4. Bahiagrass seed production fields will only be grazed during the months of November through April to prevent contamination.
 - 5. Cattle may graze bahiagrass production fields if the preceding five days cattle are on pasture of feed stuffs which contain no bahiagrass seed heads. GCIA will be notified 10 days prior to grazing bahiagrass seed production fields and inspection made of pastures and feed stuffs. Producers will be charged actual expenses for inspections.
 - 6. Hay containing bahiagrass will not be fed to animals five days prior to grazing bahiagrass seed production fields.
 - 7. At no time will bahiagrass hay be fed on bahia production fields. Unless the hay is produced from a certified field of the same variety.

III. Field Inspections

- A. A field inspection must be made each year that a foundation, registered or certified crop is to be harvested.
- B. A field inspection is to be made after heading but before harvest.
- C. A crop automatically becomes ineligible for certification if harvested before the field inspection is made.
- D. Fields found to contain Brunswick Grass (*paspalum nicorae*) will be rejected. At the discretion of the GCIA inspector a field may be divided and/or specific areas of a field containing Brunswick Grass may be marked and not harvested. A re-inspection is required to validate that marked rejected areas have not been harvested.

IV. Field Standards

- A. General
 - 1. Unit Certification
A seed field shall be considered the unit of certification. A strip at least five feet in width and which is mowed, uncropped or planted to some other crop other than the kind in question shall constitute a field boundary.
 - 2. Isolation
A seed field 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 requirements given in the following table.

<u>Type of Reproduction</u>	<u>Border to be Removed *Feet</u>	<u>**Minimum Isolation - Feet</u>		
		<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Certified</u>
Cross-pollinated	0	900	300	165
	9	600	225	100
	15	450	150	75
Strains at least 80% Apomictic & highly Self-fertile species***	0	60	30	15
	9	30	15	15

* Border removal applies only to fields of 5 acres or more. Where a border is to be removed such removal shall not occur until pollination of the crop to be certified is completed.

** When different classes of seed of the same variety are being grown on the same or adjacent fields, the isolation requirements may be reduced to 25% of that shown in the above table.

*** Varieties within species with both cross-pollinated and apomictic type of reproduction will be considered highly apomictic for purposes of minimum isolation unless otherwise specified for that variety.

B. Specific Requirements

Maximum field tolerance for other varieties and off-type plants of the same species when recognizable are: (Ratio of Plants)

<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Certified</u>
1:1000	1:100	1:50

V. **Seed Standards**

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Standards in Each Class</u>		
	<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Certified</u>
Pure Seed (Min.)	95%	95%	95%
Inert Matter (Max.)**	5%	5%	5%
Other Crop (Max.)	.10%	.10%	.10%
Other Varieties (Max.)	.10%	.10%	.10%
Noxious Weed Seed*	None	None	None
Objectionable Weed Seed***	None	None	None
Total Weed Seed (Max.)	.50%	.50%	.50%
Germination Including Firm Seed	80%	80%	80%

* See General Seed Certification Standards for Noxious Weed List

** Inert Matter in excess of 5% but less than 10% may be labeled "Below Standard Inert"

*** Brunswick Grass (*Paspalum nicorae*)

INSTRUCTIONS & PROCEDURES

1. Seed house or Bin Inspection of Seed:

Seed should be so handled as to prevent mixture and maintain identity.