

TALL FESCUE SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS (1988)

I. Application and Amplification of General Certification Standards

The General Seed Certification Standards, as adopted by the association are basic and together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for certification of fescue.

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 not have grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous five years.
 - 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 except the requirement is waived if the previous crop was of the same variety and a certified class equal or superior to that of the crop seeded.
 - 3. A field inspection is required prior to planting. Isolation, previous crop and existing contamination should be checked and problems corrected prior to planting.

III. Field Inspections

- A. A field inspection must be made each year that a foundation, registered or certified seed crop is to be harvested.
- B. A field inspection is to be made after heading but before harvesting.
- C. A crop automatically becomes ineligible for certification if harvested before the field inspection is made.

IV. Field Standards

- A. General
 - 1. Unit of Certification
The field shall be considered the unit of certification and a field may not be divided for the purpose of certification. A strip of ground at least the width of a drill or seeder and which is either mowed, uncropped or planted to some crop other than the kind being certified shall constitute a field boundary for the purpose of these standards.

2. Restrictions on number of varieties

Unless permission is given by the Georgia Crop Improvement Association, only one strain or variety may be grown for seed production on a farm.

3. Isolation

The planting must be at least: Foundation 1,320 ft.; Registered 660 ft. and Certified 330 ft. from any other strain of meadow or tall fescue in bloom at the same time as the inspected strain.

4. Other Crops

Other crops shall not be present in an amount of one plant or seed head to 500 fescue plants or seed heads, except ryegrass which shall not be present in an amount of more than one ryegrass to 1,000 fescue.

5. Other Varieties

Maximum field tolerance for other varieties and off-type plants of the same species when recognizable are as follows: Foundation 0%; Registered 1% and Certified 2%.

6. Noxious Weeds

If seed-producing noxious weeds are present in a field at inspection, there should be satisfactory evidence that an attempt has been made to destroy them or prevent them from contaminating the seed crop. Wild Onion, Cheat or Chess in head, or Curlydock in head still remaining in the field at the time of inspection must be destroyed or removed from the field. An additional fee shall be charged for an extra inspection fee.

7. Grazing of Production Fields

- a. Fescue seed production fields will only be grazed during the months of no seed head production to prevent contamination from other fescue and crops.
- b. Cattle may graze fescue production fields if, in the preceding five days, cattle are on pasture or feed stuffs which contain no fescue seed heads. GCIA will be notified 10 days prior to grazing fescue seed production fields, and inspection made of pastures and feed stuff. Producers will be charged actual expenses for inspection.
- c. Hay containing fescue seed will not be fed to animals five days prior to grazing fescue production fields.
- d. At no time will fescue hay be fed on fescue production fields.

V. Seed Standards

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Standards in Each Class</u>		
	<u>Foundation</u>	<u>Registered</u>	<u>Certified</u>
Pure Seed (Min.)	98%	98%	98%
Inert Matter (Max.)	2%	2%	2%
Other Crop Seed(Max.)	.1%	.2%	*1%
Noxious weed seed**	None	None	None
Weed Seed (Max.)	.3%	.3%	.5%
Germination (Min.)	80%	80%	80%
Other Varieties (off-types)	.1%	1%	2%

*Not more than one-fourth of one percent of other crops may be ryegrass.

**See General Standards for list of Noxious Weeds.

Note: Upon request for certification tags on varieties, which have a required percentage of endophyte level, as listed in variety description and/or PVP certificate, must have an analysis report from a laboratory stating percentage of viable endophyte. Test must be within 30 days of germination analysis report. The acceptable endophyte level will be determined in the variety description.

INSTRUCTIONS & PROCEDURES

1. Seed house or Bin Inspection of Seed:

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