



## **General Turf Certification Standard**

These standards are applicable to all turfgrass crops eligible for certification, and with the specific standards, shall constitute the Turfgrass Certification Standards of the Southern Seed Certification Association, Inc.

### **I. TYPE OF CERTIFYING ORGANIZATION**

The Southern Seed Certification Association, Inc. (hereafter called the Association or the SSCA) is a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Alabama. It is designated as an official seed certifying agency pursuant to Alabama and Florida laws and is a member of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). SSCA's seed certifying activities meet or exceed the standards and procedures specified in part 210.68 through 201.78 of the Federal Seed Act (7 U. S. C. 1561 (a) (24).

SSCA carries neither products liability nor errors and omission insurance covering certification activities. It is not a marketing agency and it makes no representations or warranties of any kind, expressed or implied, including merchantability or fitness for purpose, or otherwise. Under no circumstances or event shall SSCA be responsible for incidental or consequential damages. Issuance of certification labels and certificates is based on a presumption of accuracy of information provided to the agency and on conclusions reached by competent personnel employing accepted procedures of field and handling equipment inspections. Certification is limited to propagating material of officially recognized varieties that are grown and inspected so as to maintain varietal identity and genetic purity.

SSCA endeavors to maintain a close working relationship with growers, variety developers, merchants, agricultural commodity and professional groups, agricultural research and extension organizations and state and federal seed regulatory agencies.

### **II. PURPOSE OF CERTIFICATION**

The purpose shall be to maintain and make available to the public through certification, high quality seeds and propagating materials of superior crop plant varieties so grown and distributed as to maintain genetic identity and purity. The word "seed" or "seeds" as used in these standards shall be understood to include all propagating materials.

### **III. MEMBERSHIP**

Any person, partnership or corporation involved in the production, distribution or consumption of Certified propagating material may become an active member of SSCA by agreeing to follow its rules, regulations, and procedures as adopted by the Board of Directors and by paying the annual membership fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00). Any other person, partnership or corporation who is interested in supporting the work of the Association may become an associate member upon payment of the annual membership fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00). The membership year shall be from January 1 through December 31.

### **IV. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION**

A variety shall be eligible for certification if it has been approved as meriting certification by a member agency of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies, and appropriate National Variety Review Board, a public Agricultural Experiment Station, or the Certification Committee of this Association.

Before a new variety will be considered for certification, the originator, developer, owner or agent of such variety must request certification and must provide the following information:

- A. The name of the variety. This name must be the established name if the variety has previously been marketed.
- B. A statement concerning the variety's origin and the breeding procedure used in its development.
- C. A detailed description of the morphological, physiological, and other characteristics of the plants and seed that distinguish it from other varieties.
- D. Evidence of performance of the variety, such as rate and uniformity of growth, insect and disease resistance, or other factors supporting the identity of the variety.
- E. A statement delineating the geographic area or areas of adaptation of the variety.
- F. A statement of the plans and procedures for the maintenance of stock propagating material classes including the number of generations through which the variety may be multiplied.
- G. A description of the manner in which the variety is constituted when a particular cycle of reproduction or multiplication is specified.
- H. Any additional restrictions on the variety, specified by the breeder, with respect to geographic area of production, age of stand or other factors affecting genetic purity.

#### **V. CLASSES AND SOURCES OR CERTIFIED SEED – PROPAGATING MATERIAL**

The following four classes of seed shall be recognized in seed certification.

- A. Breeder Seed ( White Tag )** – Breeder seed shall be seed directly controlled by the originating or sponsoring plant breeding institution or person or designee thereof, and is the source for production of seed of the other classes of certified seed.
- B. Foundation Seed ( White Tag )** – Foundation seed shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed produced under control of the originator or sponsoring plant breeding institution, or person, or designee thereof. Foundation seed is a class of certified seed which is produced under procedures established by the Association for the purpose of maintaining genetic purity and identity.
- C. Registered Seed ( Purple Tag )** – Registered seed shall be the progeny of Breeder or Foundation seed handled under procedures acceptable to the Association to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and identity.
- D. Certified Seed ( Blue Tag )** – Certified seed shall be the progeny of Breeder, Foundation or Registered seed so handled as to maintain satisfactory genetic identity and purity and which has been acceptable to the Association, except as provided in VI.

#### **VI. LIMITATIONS OF GENERATIONS**

The number of generations through which a variety may be multiplied shall be limited to that specified by the originating breeder or owner of the variety, but shall not exceed two generations beyond the Foundation seed class.

#### **VII. ESTABLISHING THE SOURCE OF PROPAGATING MATERIAL**

Two items must be provided with an application for certification to establish the source, class and quantity of material used to plant each crop to be considered for certification. One item shall be an invoice showing crop, variety, class, lot number and quantity of material purchased. The other item is a certification tag

from each lot representing the material planted. In cases where growers plant eligible material from their own production, a signed statement providing the necessary information will be accepted. In all cases, the applicant's signature on the application for certification shall serve as an affidavit that the information submitted for verification of propagating material eligibility represents the total amount of material used.

## **VIII. PRODUCTION OF TURFGRASS**

### **A. Field Inspection**

One or more field inspections shall be made each year when genetic purity and identity, or any other factor affecting certification, can best be determined. The field shall be in such condition to permit an adequate inspection to determine genetic purity and identity.

It is the responsibility of the producer to make requests for all inspections required by the Association. All requests must be made on official application forms. Inspection fees must accompany the application; otherwise, the request shall not be considered as having been received.

### **B. Fields Re-Entering Certification**

If an original producer drops an eligible field from certification for 1 or more years, the original producer may re-enter the field into certification by submitting a new application with the appropriate fees and paying a re-entry fee of \$250.00 for each year the field was out of certification. The field must then be inspected and approved under the association's standards and normal inspection schedule of three inspections annually before certified sod can be harvested.

### **C. Ownership Change of Fields**

The new owner of an eligible field can apply for certification with the original owner's records on file in the Association's office serving as evidence of planting stock and field eligibility. The new producer then may continue the certification on an established field basis or, if applicable, under the conditions stated above regarding Fields Re-Entering Certification.

### **D. Unit of Certification**

The unit of certification shall be a clearly defined area which may be divided subject to special regulations for specific crops.

### **E. Application for Field Inspection**

Forms for filing application for field inspection will be furnished by the Association.

### **F. Dates for filing applications**

New Fields – no later than planting date.

Continued Certification of established fields – February 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

### **G. Late Applications**

All applications for inspection must be in by deadline dates. Exceptions to this requirement may be made at the discretion of the Association, but in all such cases the applicant will be required to pay the regular application fee plus a late application fee. In addition to these charges, travel expenses will be charged if an inspector must return to an area where inspection has been completed.

### **H. Enclosures to be submitted with application**

1. Copy of purchase invoice showing crop, variety, class, source, lot number and quantity of planting material.
2. Certification tag or certificate from each lot planted.
3. An invoice showing fumigation material, rate applied and size of area fumigated or signed statement showing same information if fumigant applied by applicant.
4. Annual membership fee of \$50.00, if not previously submitted.
5. Inspection fees as printed on application form.

**I. Refunds on Field Inspection Fees**

Application may be withdrawn prior to inspection, and in such cases, a refund will be made, provided the Association receives such notice in time to notify the inspector prior to the visit to the grower's farm.

**J. Contamination Crops and Weeds**

Every field for which certification is requested shall show evidence of good management and shall show that reasonable precaution has been taken to control contaminating crops and varieties and objectionable weeds.

**K. Handling of Crop Prior to Inspection**

roguing of off-type plants, objectionable crop plants and weeds is required prior to field inspection.

**L. Harvested Crop Inspection**

Inspection of harvested lots of sod/sprigs from approved fields may be made at any time by representatives of the Association, who shall have authority to reject for certification any lot not properly protected from mixture, or which is not properly identified.

**M. Qualifications for Inspectors**

Inspection work requiring technical training shall be performed only by trained personnel.

**IX. LABELING**

Certification certificates must be obtained from the Association by the producer. A certificate showing kind, variety, quantity, lot, field number, digging date and grower name and address must accompany each shipment.

**X. LIABILITY**

Responsibility for any obligation arising from the sale or shipment of certified turfgrass rests with the producer or subsequent handler making the sale or shipment. It is the responsibility of certified producers to fully comply with the provisions of both the Federal and State Seed Laws and rules and regulations of the Association.

**XI. NOXIOUS WEED LIST**

Weed seed designated noxious by the Alabama and Florida Seed Laws, Rules and Regulations:

	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
1.	Annual Bluegrass	<i>Poa annua</i>

2.	Balloonvine	<i>Cardiospermum halicacabum</i>
3.	Bermudagrass	<i>Cynodon spp.</i>
4.	Blessed thistle	<i>Cnicus benedictus</i>
5.	Bracted plantain	<i>Plantago aristata</i>
6.	Buckhorn plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
7.	Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
8.	Cheat	<i>Bromus secalinus</i>
9.	Chess	<i>Bromus spp.</i>
10.	Cocklebur	<i>Xanthium spp.</i>
11.	Corn Cockle	<i>Agrostemma githago</i>
12.	Crotalaria	<i>Crotalaria spp.</i>
13.	Darnel	<i>Lolium temulentum</i>
14.	Docks	<i>Rumex spp. except hastatulus</i>
15.	Dodder	<i>Cuscuta spp.</i>
16.	Field Bindweed	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>
17.	Giant foxtail	<i>Setaria faberi</i>
18.	Goatgrass	<i>Aegilops spp.</i>
19.	Hedge bindweed	<i>Convolvulus sepium</i>
20.	Carolina horsenettle	<i>Solanum carolinense</i>
21.	Johnsongrass	<i>Sorghum halepense and/or S. almum</i>
22.	*Moonflower or Giant Morningglory	<i>Calonyction muricatum</i>
23.	Nutgrass	<i>Cyperus spp.</i>
24.	Quackgrass	<i>Agropyron repens</i>
25.	Red Rice	<i>Oryza sativa</i>
26.	Radish	<i>Raphanus spp.</i>
27.	Serrated tussock	<i>Nassella trichotoma</i>
28.	Sheep sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
29.	Silverleaf nightshade	<i>Solanum elaeagnifolium</i>
30.	Texas millet	<i>Panicum texanum</i>
31.	Tropical soda apple	<i>Solanum viarum</i>
32.	Wild mustard or turnip	<i>Brassica spp.</i>
33.	Wild onion or garlic	<i>Allium spp.</i>
34.	Sicklepod	

Recognized as purple morningglory – *Ipomoea turbinata* – by the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA).