



UTAH CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



SEEDED OR VEGETATIVELY PROPAGATED SOD

CERTIFIED SOD REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS

I. BASIC RULES

The UCIA General Seed Certification Requirements and Standards are basic, and with the following constitute the requirements and standards for UCIA Certified turfgrass sod production.

NOTE: The UCIA Certified Sod program is based on complete labeling on tags of specific grass kind and variety names (and their percentages) that make up the sod components as it is marketed to the consumer. See Section III. for labeling details.

II. SOD PRODUCTION

A. APPLICATIONS

1. New growers (owner or designated representative) must contact a UCIA representative prior to submitting an application to evaluate field eligibility.
2. For the seedling year (initial seeding or overseeded regrowth), fill out "Application for Certification for Annual Crops and Seedling Perennial Crops". New field applications for the Certified Class of sod must be submitted within 30 days of planting. For Foundation and Registered sod an application must be submitted one year before planting so that pre-plant inspections can be scheduled (see II.C.1.) Individual fields will be assigned a certification number by UCIA.
3. If the sod matures such that harvest is anticipated the seedling year, an additional application, "Application for Certification for Established Perennial Crops" must be completed at least 5 days before harvest so that a pre-harvest sod inspection can be made.
4. An Established Perennial Crops application for each field must be completed by May 15 in the second and subsequent years for the acreage not previously harvested, until the field is completely harvested and/or taken out., and also for those fields for which regrowth is allowed (see II.E.3. Life of Stand).

B. STOCK SEED OR SPRIG ELIGIBILITY

1. Sod Classes

- a. Foundation sod shall be the vegetative increase of Breeder sod or seed.
- b. Registered sod shall be the vegetative increase of Foundation sod or seed.
- c. Certified Sod
 - i. Certified seeded sod shall be the vegetative increase of Foundation, Registered or Certified seed.
 - ii. Certified vegetatively propagated sod shall be the vegetative increase of Foundation, or Registered sod.

2. All Seed planted (including all components of sod mixtures or blends, see II.E.2.) must be Foundation, Registered, or Certified Seed. Seed shall be “sod quality” as labeled by an official government agency e.g. Oregon Department of Agriculture Commodity Inspection Division or Washington State Legislature Washington Administrative Code (WAC 16-302-395), and/or must meet or exceed the following AOSCA standards for the species as listed in Table 1. Sod quality seed standards for certain other species are listed in Table 2 and seed must meet or exceed these standards. Note: Certified Blends and Mixtures are available as tagged by official seed certification agencies or can be custom blended with the oversight of UCIA. For more information on Certified blends or mixtures contact UCIA.

Table 1. AOSCA SOD QUALITY SEED STANDARDS

The seed standards for sod quality grass seed of Kentucky bluegrass, red fescue, Chewings fescue, and tall fescue:

Variety	Minimum Purity	Minimum Viability	Maximum* Other Crop	Maximum*** Weed
Merion Kentucky Bluegrass	96%	80%	0.1%**	0.02%
Other varieties of Kentucky Bluegrass	97%	80%	0.1%**	0.02%
Red Fescue	98%	90%	0.1%	0.02%
Chewings Fescue	98%	90%	0.1%	0.02%
Tall Fescue	98.5%	80%	0.1%****	0.02%

*Must be free of ryegrass, orchardgrass, (See Exception for tall fescue) timothy, bentgrass, big bluegrass, Poa trivialis, smooth brome grass, reed canarygrass, bermudagrass, and clover.

Canada bluegrass in Kentucky bluegrass varieties, maximum .02%. Red fescue and Chewings fescue must be free of Canada bluegrass.

**Other Kentucky bluegrass - Maximum 2%

***Must be free of dock, chickweed, crabgrass, plantain, black medic, annual bluegrass, velvet-grass and noxious weed seeds.

****Orchardgrass seed in tall fescue seed shall not exceed 20 per pound based on analysis of 50 gram sample.

A sod seed analysis based on a 25 gram sample for noxious, all weed and all crop seed, and on a 10 gram Poa annua check shall be the basis of determining seed standards.

Table 2. ADDITIONAL SPECIES SOD QUALITY SEED STANDARDS

The seed standards for sod quality grass seed of hard fescue, sheep fescue, blue fescue, bentgrass, and perennial ryegrass shall be:

Variety	Minimum Purity	Minimum Viability	Maximum* Other Crop	Maximum** Weed
Hard Fescue	98%	85%	0.1%	0.02%
Sheep Fescue	98%	85%	0.1%	0.02%
Blue Fescue	98%	85%	0.1%	0.02%
Bentgrass	98%	85%	0.1%***	0.10%
Perennial Ryegrass	98%	90%	0.1%	0.02%

*Must be free of ryegrass, orchardgrass, timothy, bentgrass, big bluegrass, Poa trivialis, smooth bromegrass, reed canarygrass, bermudagrass, and clover.

**Must be free of dock, chickweed, crabgrass, plantain, black medic, annual bluegrass, velvet-grass and noxious weed seeds.

***A 500-seed count will be used to determine other species of Agrostis.

A sod seed analysis based on a 25 gram sample for noxious, all weed and all crop seed, and on a 10 gram Poa annua check shall be the basis of determining seed standards.

3. Sprigs (vegetative propagules) for vegetatively produced sod must originate from Breeder Foundation or Registered Sod. (see II.D.1.)
4. A certification tag or document that represents each seed lot (before mixing or blending) or sprigs planted for certified sod production must be included with the Application for Certification to prove seed or sprig eligibility.

C. LAND REQUIREMENTS

1. A field eligible for the production of all classes of certified sod must be free of all annual or perennial plant species including other sod species, and objectionable and noxious weeds. An inspection by a UCIA representative shall be done at a time preceding planting when such grasses and weeds would be actively growing. Note: For Foundation and Registered sod two field inspections must be done to ensure freedom from all other perennial grass species and other varieties for one year prior to planting.
2. Foundation, Registered, and Certified sod must be produced on land which has not grown or been seeded to the same genus (unless it is a lower class of the same variety) during four, three, or two years, respectively, prior to the year of proposed planting. Exceptions to land

history limitations may be approved if proven cultural practices such as deep plowing or fumigation or other means which eliminate volunteer plants are followed.

3. Isolation: A fenceline, roadway, or strip at least 5 feet in width and which is mowed, uncropped, or planted to some other crop than the kind in question shall constitute a field boundary (unit of certification).

D. SEEDING/PLANTING

1. Each acre of fields established from sprigs shall be planted with sprigs harvested from a minimum of 1000 square feet of parent sod.
2. Fields reseeded during the seedling year will be evaluated by UCIA on an individual basis and may require an additional seedling inspection. When reseeding, any variance from the original seed lots used in the first planting of the field must be approved by UCIA.
3. Planting equipment (drills, planters, sprig separators, etc.) must be thoroughly cleaned (using brushes, compressed air, water, vacuum, etc.) and may be inspected by a UCIA representative before planting.

E. LIFE OF STAND

1. Single Variety Planting

- a. Vegetatively propagated – Unlimited. The life of the stand will continue for all classes of vegetatively propagated turf grasses as long as the varietal and mechanical purity for the class is maintained.
- b. Seeded Sod
 - i. Clonal (Kentucky bluegrass; at least 85% apomictic): Unlimited as long as the varietal and mechanical purity for the class is maintained.
 - ii. Non-clonal (all other grasses): 2 harvests allowed. Second harvest shall be listed on tag as “Regrowth - 2nd Harvest”.

2. Sod Mixtures and Blends

Multiple species (termed as a Mixture) and/or multiple varieties of the same species (termed as a Blend):

- a. Single harvest:
 - i. Mixtures
 - ii. Non-clonal and most clonal Kentucky bluegrass blends
- b. Multiple harvests: Allowed for root regrowth of clonal Kentucky bluegrass when it is overseeded after each harvest with the same blend in the same proportion and

quality as the original seeding. Such sod shall be listed on the tag as "Overseeded Regrowth", plus the consecutive harvest number.

- c. Second harvest: Allowed for compatible variety blend combinations of clonal Kentucky bluegrass where regrowth inspection indicates even growth and consistency. Such sod shall be listed on tag as "Regrowth - 2nd Harvest".

F. SOD FIELD INSPECTION

1. A seedling inspection will be made by a UCIA representative during the first season of growth to evaluate stand establishment, consistency, off types, volunteers, and perennial and other weed control status. The seedling inspection will be made shortly before first mowing.
2. Established fields shall be inspected once per year for each unit of certification (see II.C.3.) before any portion of the field is harvested. If harvest occurs in the seedling year, an Established Perennial Crop Application must be submitted and an established field (pre-harvest) inspection made.(see III.A.)
3. It is the responsibility of the grower to request a pre-harvest inspection at least 5 days before harvest of any portion of the field. Requests with fewer than 5 days' notice may result in additional fees

G. FIELD STANDARDS

1. All mowing, harvesting and loading equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to entering the field to prevent cross contamination and may be inspected by UCIA. For vegetatively propagated species additional care must be taken to prevent root or stem material from contaminating other fields.
2. Fields producing Foundation, Registered, or Certified sod will be subject to reclassification or rejection if volunteer or other off-type plants are observed (see tables below).
3. Fields should be of consistent density, color, and texture, and free from excessive amounts of thatch, insects, diseases, nematodes, and any other abnormal condition. Any condition which prevents an accurate inspection of the field for genetic identity and consistency, such as excessive weed growth, dormancy, or poor sod growth due to the conditions listed above, may be cause for rejection.

4. Specific requirements (tables a. and b.): NOTE: A tolerance of “None” for contaminating other crops or noxious weeds means that none were found during the normal field inspection procedures. It does not constitute a guarantee that the sod was or is entirely free of the contaminant.

a. Vegetatively Propagated Sod

Factor	Maximum Permitted in Class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other Varieties*	1/acre	2/acre	5/acre
Other Crops**	None	None	None
Noxious Weeds***	None	None	None
Weeds****	-	-	-

*Other varieties shall consist of all other varieties of the kind being produced.

**Other crops shall consist of all other kinds of annual or perennial sod species.

***Absence of noxious weeds in sod is determined in a separate inspection by Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) Agricultural Field Representatives

****The presence or absence of non-noxious weeds in a given shipment of sod may be a claim of the sod producer, and is not verified by the UCIA. (see II.G.3. above, if weeds interfere with accurate genetic identity and consistency assessment)

Note: Should other varieties or other crops be found in excess of standards during field inspection, rouging or eradication by spot spraying will be permitted to bring turf in line with standards.

b. Seeded Sod

Factor	Maximum Permitted in Class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other Varieties*	None	1/1000ft ²	3/1000ft ²
Other Crops**	None	1/1000ft ²	3/1000ft ²
Noxious Weeds***	None	None	None
Weeds****	-	-	-

*Other varieties shall consist of all other varieties of the kind being produced, unless such varieties are components of a sod mixture or blend.

**Other crops shall consist of all other kinds and varieties of annual or perennial sod species, unless they are components of a sod mixture.

***Absence of noxious weeds in sod is determined in a separate inspection by UDAF Agricultural Field Representatives

****The presence or absence of common weeds in a given shipment of sod may be a claim of the sod producer and is not verified by the UCIA. (see II.G.3 above, if weeds interfere with accurate genetic identity and consistency assessment)

Note: Should other varieties or other crops be found in excess of standards during field inspection, rouging and eradication by spot spraying will be permitted to bring turf in line with standards.

III. LABELING INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURES

- A. Certified Sod tags of the appropriate class (blue - Certified, purple – Registered, or white - Foundation) will be issued upon established sod field approval. Information on the tags shall include kind and variety, UCIA certification number, and field inspection date. Tags for mixtures and blends must state kind and variety names, and percentages of the mixture or blend components. A field or lot number may be printed on the tags by UCIA if provided by the sod producer.
- B. Tags must be securely attached to each unit of shipment (pallet, roll, etc.). Bulk shipments must include a certified sod tag with each truckload or shipment as defined by the sod producer.
- C. A complete record of the amount of certified sod harvested from each eligible field (unit of certification) will be maintained and made available to UCIA upon request. The record will include (a) kind and variety, blend or mixture components and percentages if applicable (b) certification number, (c) field or lot number, if applicable, (d) date(s) of harvest, and (d) number of square feet of sod shipped.
- D. Each Certified Sod producer is responsible for ensuring that the Certified Sod tags represented by each unit of shipment is tagged accurately and attached securely. All Certified Sod shipments shall be accompanied by Certified Sod tags.