

UCIA Sod Certification Program accommodates two approaches to sod marketing:

•UTAH CERTIFIED SOD

–Sod marketed to customer as specific kinds and varieties (including all components of mixtures and blends).

•UTAH QUALITY ASSURED

CERTIFIED SOD



KIND: KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS
 VARIETY: MIDNIGHT
 CERT# SOD-22 LOT# MKBG-13-01

The UTAH CERTIFIED SOD represented by the proper use of this label was produced in compliance with the Seeded or Vegetatively Propagated CERTIFIED SOD REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS established by the UTAH CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION for the certified class of certified sod. Beyond this compliance (based on and limited to record of seed or sprig source and the results of representative field inspections), the ASSOCIATION makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to merchantability or fitness for purpose or performance of the sod. UTAH CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, UAES, USU, Logan, UT 84322-4855 www.utahcrop.org

Member of Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies

(QA) SOD

–Sod marketed to customer as a specific brand name that will consistently be made up of the same kinds and varieties.

QUALITY ASSURED SOD



AGGIE BLUE BRAND
 CERT # QA-72 LOT# AB-13-02

The UTAH QUALITY ASSURED sod represented by the proper use of this label was produced in compliance with the Seeded or Vegetatively Propagated CERTIFIED SOD REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS established by the UTAH CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION for the certified class of certified sod, except that a brand name or designation represents specific kinds and/or variety components. Beyond this compliance (based on and limited to record of seed or sprig source and the results of representative field inspections), the ASSOCIATION makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to merchantability or fitness for purpose or performance of the sod. UTAH CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, UAES, USU, Logan, UT 84322-4855 www.utahcrop.org

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CERTIFIED SOD
A Value Added Opportunity

Utah Crop Improvement Association (UCIA)

- Third-party official seed certifying agency for Utah since 1937

- Non-profit corporation



- Member, Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA)



- **VOLUNTARY** participation by seed/sod industry

Is your sod fit for its site?

Turfgrass is a major investment which adds considerable aesthetic and functional value to a property for many years to come. Professional landscape designers, contractors, and homeowners consider many turf characteristics when choosing sod for a property. Choosing the right (or wrong) sod can have a long lasting effect.

The right kinds (species) and varieties make a beautiful landscape and can make a huge difference in achieving desired functionality. The wrong kinds and varieties can mean that the sod will need to be replaced. Poor color, texture, or growth recovery rate; poor drought or winter hardiness; and poor traffic, disease, or insect resistance are typical symptoms of sod mismatched to the site.

Specifying the right kinds and varieties is critical, but it is also essential to have confidence that the sod received is actually what was specified. A third-party assurance that sod will consist of the kinds and varieties expected will bolster that confidence greatly. That third-party assurance is now available through the UCIA sod certification program.



What is CERTIFIED SOD?

UCIA Certified Sod Program

Verifies genetic identity and purity of turfgrass kinds (species) and varieties in the sod product.

Ensures that:

The turfgrass kinds and varieties as claimed by the sod producer are what the customer gets.

VALUE TO CUSTOMER

- Assures that the sod purchased will have the characteristics as expected.

VALUE TO SOD PRODUCER

- Protects against cut-rate competition that promotes low price over quality and performance.

REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS

•**Based on official AOSCA Turfgrass Certification Standards.**

•**Adjusted to reflect Utah Sod Industry production and marketing practices.**

•**Addresses seeded, regrowth, overseeded regrowth, or vegetatively propagated sod.**

•**Addresses single varieties, blends (more than one variety of the same kind) or mixtures (more than one kind).**

UCIA CERTIFIED SOD



UCIA Oversight of Sod Production

1. GROWER REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Plant Certified Sod Quality seed or proper generation of sprigs
- b. Keep tags or documents from seed or sprigs to prove eligibility

2. UCIA SOD FIELD INSPECTIONS:

- a. Pre-Plant/Pre-Regrowth: Determine field history eligibility; cleanliness from volunteer or weed contaminants
- b. Seedling/Establishment: Evaluate stand emergence (or regrowth) and establishment, consistency with kind/variety descriptions, off-types, volunteers, note perennial and other weed control
- c. Pre-Harvest: Evaluate stand maturity and consistency with kind/variety descriptions

3. LABELING PROCEDURES:

- a. UCIA issues tags for each field approved for harvest
- b. Sod producer is responsible for accurate and secure tagging: Attachment to each unit of shipment (rolls, pallets, etc.), or attached to or scanned onto customer invoice
- c. Grower must keep complete record of shipments, available to UCIA