



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

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DELAWARE CULTIVATED SOD CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

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

I. INSPECTION FEES

A charge of \$6.00 per acre will be made to all applicants for field inspection of cultivated sod, with a minimum fee of \$10.00.

II. LABEL FEES

A charge of fourteen cents (14¢) per label will be made for all Certified Sod labels.

III. AMPLIFICATION OF GENERAL STANDARDS

A. Classes of Cultivated Sod

1. Certified sod shall be the progeny of foundation, registered, or certified seed that is so handled as to maintain satisfactory genetic identity.
2. Approved sod shall be the progeny of seed stocks of a named species recommended for use in Delaware.

B. Eligibility Requirements

1. All planting stocks must be approved by the Seed Certification Specialist.
2. Approved varieties and mixtures of turfgrass species are eligible for sod certification.
 - a. Examples are:
 - i. Merion Kentucky Bluegrass or other named varieties.
 - ii. Pennlawn Red Fescue.
 - iii. Kentucky 31 Tall Fescue.
3. The participant shall maintain for 2 years after harvest of the turf grass, evidence establishing the source of seed or vegetative stock., including such evidence as:
 - i. A certification tag
 - ii. An analysis tag; and
 - iii. A bill of landing or invoice
4. The participant shall make available to the Department the evidence in (3) on request.
5. The participant shall maintain a record that shows the variety and lot number of the seed source or vegetative stock used to plant each field.

IV. NUMBER OF VARIETIES

There is no restriction on the number of varieties or mixture so long as the plantings are made according to the procedure outlined.

V. LAND REQUIREMENTS

- A. Sod for certification shall not be grown on land unless one or more of the following programs are practiced:
 - 1. the previous crop was of the same variety grown for certified or approved sod,
 - 2. one year of clean cultivated crops were produced on the same land,
 - 3. a six-month fallow is followed immediately prior to planting,
 - 4. the soil was treated with a recommended soil fumigant or herbicide program.
- B. Sod for certification must be produced on sites approved by the certifying agency. An inspection must be made before any land preparations for planting are started. The grower is responsible for notifying the Department of Agriculture in advance, requesting this land inspection.
- C. No animal manures or other material potentially containing seeds shall be applied on sod to be entered for certification.

VI. FIELD INSPECTION

- A. Field inspections will be made not only to determine the identity, the presence of other crop plants, weedy plants, insects, and diseases, but also the percentage of species in a mixture. Suggestions on care and management may also be given.
- B. Inspections will be made by a representative of the Delaware Department of Agriculture during the growing season and the dormant period to detect other crop plants and weeds present.
- C. A final inspection will be made just prior to lifting. The grower is required to notify the Department of his intention to lift at least three days in advance. Sod lifted before these inspections will not be eligible for certification.

VII. FIELD STANDARDS

- A. General
 - 1. Age: The production of certified sod shall be limited to fields having stands not more than three years old.
 - 2. Unit of Certification: A field or a marked block within a field shall be considered a unit for certification. A strip of ground so designated and marked by a representative of the Delaware Department of Agriculture shall constitute a boundary or isolation for the purpose of certification.
 - 3. Isolation between varieties, species, and mixtures at planting time shall be at least ten (10) feet, or a fence row, ditch, or some natural barrier.

4. Management: A sod field for lifting should show evidence of good management.
 - a. In pure stands, other species must be rogued out prior to final inspection before lifting.
 - b. In mixtures, all noxious weeds and excessive objectionable species must be rogued out prior to final inspection before lifting.

B. Specific Requirements - Maximum Tolerance

Factor	Maximum number permitted /1,000 sq. Ft. Certified
*Other kinds	3
Objectionable Weeds	2
Noxious Weeds	None
Quality	Shall be of uniform density, color, and texture.

*Other kinds shall consist of all other perennial grass species and varieties that can be differentiated from the variety that is being inspected.

C. Weeds

Noxious Weeds
Bermudagrass
Johnsongrass
Poison Ivy
Quackgrass
Canada Thistle
Nimblewill
Nutsedge

Objectionable Weeds	
Crabgrass	Sorrel
Henbit	Oxalis
Chickweed	Spurge
Knotweed	Purslane
Goosegrass	Black Medic
Dock	Annual Bluegrass
Dodder	Dandelion
Bindweed	Clover
Plantain	Garlic

D. Sod Quality

The marketable certified or approved sod should be of uniform density, color, texture, free of serious amounts of thatch, insects, disease, nematode, and other problems. The turf moving in interstate shipment must also be inspected by the Delaware Department of Agriculture Entomologist for freedom from insects and the Delaware Department of Agriculture Pathologist for freedom from certain diseases.

VIII. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

All stocks, when sold as certified, shall have a certification label properly affixed to the invoice.

IX. SEED SAMPLES FOR LABORATORY ANALYSIS

A. Seed Standards

Kind	Minimum Purity	Minimum Germ.	Maximum Other Crop	Maximum Weed Seed	Noxious Weed Seed
Kentucky Blue	98%	85%	0.1%	0.1%	None
Red Fescue	98%	85%	0.1%	0.1%	None
Tall Fescue	98%	85%	0.1%	0.1%	None

1. Off-type or types may not exceed 2% for any one variety of Kentucky bluegrass.
2. A maximum of 90 Canada bluegrass per pound permitted in Kentucky bluegrass only. None permitted in red fescue and tall fescue.
3. A maximum of 30 "ryegrass" per pound permitted in tall fescue only. None permitted in Red Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass.
4. Smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*)-none permitted.
5. Shall be free of cheat and chess (*Bromus* spp.), chickweed, (*Cerastium* spp. and *Stellaria media*), crabgrass (*Digitaria* spp.), foxtail (*Setaria* spp.), goosegrass (*Eleusine indica*), nimblewill (*Muhlenbergia schreberi*), nutsedge (*Cyperus* spp.), panicum, (*Panicum* spp.).
6. Additional Restricted Noxious Weed Seed in Turf Seed
Seed of the following plants shall be restricted noxious weed seed or "Undesirable Grass Seed" and none shall be allowed in bentgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, chewings fescue, hard fescue, red fescue, varieties of named turf-type tall fescue, varieties of perennial ryegrass, or a mixture containing any of these grasses:

Bentgrass (Creeping, Colonial, Velvet)	<i>Agrostis</i> spp.
Bermudagrass (common and giant)	<i>Cynodon</i> spp.
Bluegrass, annual	<i>Poa annua</i>
Bluegrass, rough	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
Fescue, tall	<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>
Fescue, meadow	<i>Festuca pratensis</i>
Orchardgrass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
Redtop	<i>Agrostis gigantea</i>
Timothy	<i>Phleum pratense</i>
Velvetgrass	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>