

Louisiana Seed Standards and Labeling Requirements

A. Purity & Germination Standards for Agricultural Seed

1. **Germination Percentage Standard.** No agricultural seed shall be offered for sale if the germination percentage, including hard seed, is below 60 percent, except Dallisgrass. Dallisgrass shall not be offered for sale if the pure live seed percentage (purity times germination) is below 10 percent.
2. **Weed Seed Standard.** No agricultural and vegetable seed shall be sold, offered for sale or exposed for sale containing in excess of one (1.0%) percent of total weed seed.
3. **Germination Test Date.** No seed shall be sold or offered for sale from any bag or container bearing a germination label dated more than nine months, exclusive of the month of test, prior to the time such seed is offered for sale. For all vegetable seed packaged in hermetically sealed containers, this period shall be extended to 24 months. The owner shall be responsible for the relabeling after expiration of the germination test date period. Under the provisions of this regulation, any person, firm or corporation possessing a Louisiana Seed Dealer License shall have the right to label such seed after it has been retested, stating the current germination. A new tag, sticker or label shall be used to bring the germination up-to-date. The original tag shall not be changed in any way.
4. **Germination Standards for Vegetable Seed.** The minimum germination percentage of vegetable or garden seed shall be as follows:

	<u>Percent</u>		<u>Percent</u>
Artichoke	60	Eggplant	60
Asparagus (Incl. hard seed)	70	Endive	70
Beans (exc. lima)	75	Fetticus (cornsalad)	70
Beets	65	Kale	75
Broccoli	75	Kohlrabi	75
Brussels sprouts	70	Leek	60
Cabbage	75	Lettuce	80
Cardoon	60	Muskmelon	75
Carrot	55	Mustard	75
Cauliflower	75	Mustard, spinach	75
Celery or celeriac	55	Mustard, vegetable	75
Chicory	65	Okra (including hard seed)	50
Citron	65	Onion	70
Collards	80	Pak-choi	75
Corn	75	Parsley	60
Cress, garden	40	Parsnip	60
Cucumber	80	Peas	80
Dandelion	45	Pepper	55
Pe-tsai or Chinese cabbage	75	Spinach, New Zealand	40
Pumpkin	75	Squash	75
Radish	75	Swiss chard	65
Rhubarb	60	Tomato	65
Rutabaga	75	Tomato, husk	50
Salsify	75	Turnip	80
Sorrel	60	Watermelon	70
Spinach (except New Zealand)	60	Watercress	35

NOTE: The minimum germination standard for all other vegetable, and garden seed, for which a standard has not been established, shall be fifty (50%) percent.

B. Labeling of Seeds

Each container of agricultural, vegetable, or flower seeds, or other propagating stock, which is sold or offered for sale in Louisiana for planting purposes shall bear thereon or have attached thereto in a conspicuous place a label plainly written or printed in the English language. The label shall give the following information:

(1) For all agricultural, vegetable, and flower seeds treated as defined in this Chapter for which a separate label may be used:

- (a) A word or statement indicating that the seed has been treated.
- (b) The commonly accepted coined, chemical, or abbreviated chemical or generic name of the applied substance or description of the process used.
- (c) If the substance in the amount present with the seed is harmful to human or other vertebrate animals, a caution statement such as "Do not use for food, feed, or oil purposes". The caution for mercurials and similarly toxic substances shall be a poison statement or symbol.
- (d) If the seed is treated with an inoculant, the date beyond which the inoculant is not to be considered effective (date of expiration).

(2) On agricultural seeds:

- (a) Except as otherwise provided herein, the commonly accepted name of the kind and variety of each agricultural seed component in excess of five percent of the whole, and the percentage of weight of each in the order of its predominance. The provisions of this Subparagraph shall not prohibit the sale of wheat and oat seeds which are labeled "variety not stated" and which meet the other requirements of this Chapter. The commission may adopt rules and regulations governing the sale and labeling of variety not stated wheat and oat seeds. Hybrids shall be labeled as hybrids.
- (b) The number or other lot identification.
- (c) The origin of the seed. If the place origin is not known, that fact shall be stated.
- (d) The percentage by weight of all weed seeds.
- (e) The name and number per pound of each kind of noxious weed seed.
- (f) The percentage by weight of crop seeds other than those required to be on the label.
- (g) The percentage by weight of inert matter.
- (h) For each named agricultural seed: the percentage of germination, exclusive of hard seed; the percentage of hard seed when present; and the calendar month and year the test was completed to determine such percentages.
- (i) Name and address of the person who labeled said seed or who sells, offers, or exposes said seed for sale within this state.

(3) On vegetable seeds in containers of more than one pound:

- (a) The name of the kind and variety of the seed.

- (b) The number or other lot identification.
- (c) The percentage of germination.
- (d) The calendar month and year the test to determine the percentages was completed.
- (e) Name and address of the person who labeled said seed or who sells, offers, or exposes said seed for sale within this state.
- (f) For seeds which germinate less than the standards established by the commission, the words "Below Standard" printed or written in ink, in not less than eight-point type, on the face of the label in addition to all other information required.

(4) On vegetable seeds in containers of one pound or less which germinate equal to or above the standards established by the commission under the provisions of R.S. 3:1433(3)(a):

- (a) The name of each kind and variety of seed, and if there are two or more kinds or varieties present, the percentage of each, and further, that in the case of any such component which is a hybrid seed, it shall be designated as hybrid on the label.
- (b) The lot number or other lot identification.
- (c) The name and address of the person who transports, delivers for transportation, sells, offers for sale, or exposes for sale the seed in this state.
- (d) The calendar month and year of the germination test.

(5) On vegetable seeds in containers of one pound or less which germinate less than the standards established by the commission under the provisions of R.S. 3:1433(3)(a):

- (a) The name of each kind and variety of seed, and if two or more kinds or varieties are present, the percentage of each, and further, that in the case of any such component which is a hybrid seed, it shall be designated as hybrid on the label.
- (b) For each named kind and variety of seed, the percentage of germination.
- (c) The word "Substandard" in not less than eight-point type.
- (d) The lot number or other lot identification.
- (e) The calendar month and year the germination tests were completed.
- (f) The name and address of the person who transports, delivers for transportation, sells, offers for sale, or exposes for sale the seed in this state.

(6) On every separate package of flower seeds and other propagating stock:

- (a) The name of the kind and variety of the seeds.
- (b) The lot number or other lot identification.
- (c) The year for which the seeds were packed for sale.
- (d) The name and address of the person who labels, distributes, offers for sale, exposes for sale, or sells the seed in this state.

(7) On combination mulch, seed, and fertilizer products:

- (a) The word "combination" followed by the words "mulch-seed- fertilizer" must appear on the upper thirty percent of the principal display panel. The word "combination" must be the largest and most conspicuous type on the container, equal to or larger than the product name. The words "mulch-seed-fertilizer" shall be no smaller than one-half the size of the word "combination" and in close proximity to the word "combination". These products shall contain a minimum of seventy percent mulch.
- (b) Analysis label - Agricultural, lawn, and turf seeds placed in a germination medium, mat, tape, or other device or mixed with mulch shall be labeled as follows:
 - (i) Product name.
 - (ii) Lot number.
 - (iii) Percentage by weight of pure seed of each kind and variety named which may be less than five percent of the whole.
 - (iv) Percentage by weight of other crop seeds.
 - (v) Percentage by weight of inert matter which shall not be less than seventy percent.
 - (vi) Percentage by weight of weed seeds.
 - (vii) Name and number of noxious weed seeds per pound, if present.
 - (viii) Percentage of germination and hard seed of each kind or kind and variety named and date of test.
 - (ix) Name and address of the person who labels the seed.

C. Additional Labeling Requirements

- 1. Each package of "coated seed" shall have the following additional information stated on the front of each package using a minimum of eight-point type. The following required information shall be set forth in a clear and conspicuous manner:
 - (a) the words "coated seed;"
 - (b) a statement giving the maximum amount of coating material contained within the package;
 - (c) a statement referring purchaser to the product label for additional information.
- 2. The name and kind of variety of seed shall not be abbreviated on the label, but shall be written out in full, except in the case of annual and perennial ryegrass where "ann." or "per." may be used for the terms "annual" and "perennial".