

COOL SEASON AND SEEDED TURF GRASS SOD CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

1. General Standards.

- a. The general standards as adopted in the front of this publication are basic and apply to turf grass sod.
- b. Only fields planted with Foundation, Registered, or Certified seed that meet sod seed requirements will be eligible for certification. See Section 5 for Seed Standards.
- c. Only those varieties, kinds, or mixtures of kinds of varieties recommended by the Virginia Tech Extension Division will be eligible for certification.
- d. Labeling requirements: All certified sod must have an official certified label accompanying each load, and the label must be attached to the invoice or shipping statement for that load.

2. Land Requirements.

- a. All fields for the production of certified sod must be inspected prior to planting unless they have been producing certified sod.
- b. Have field boundaries designated at the time of inspection.
- c. Fields will need to be free of prohibited noxious weeds and all other perennial grasses.
- d. File with the Virginia Crop Improvement Association the number of acres and kinds of mixtures for all fields intended for certification the year the field is established.
- e. An aerial photo of the farm or other suitable farm plans must be filed with the Virginia Crop Improvement Association.
- f. No animal manures or other material potentially containing seeds shall be applied on sod to be entered for certification.

3. Field Standards.

a. Field Inspection.

At least one annual field inspection shall be made prior to lifting, and subsequent inspections may be made as needed at the discretion of the inspector. Fields will have to be in a certifiable condition at the time of lifting.

b. Management.

A field for the production of certified sod must show evidence of good management including weed control, fertilization, and proper clipping.

c. Isolation.

A certified turf field must be separated from other sod by a strip at least 10 feet wide and maintained free of objectionable weeds. The field must have good general appearance. Poor appearance will be sufficient reason for rejecting the field for certification. Certification can be revoked where certified standards are not maintained.

4. Sod Standards.

The sod must be of uniform density, color, and texture.

Factor	<u>Maximum Permitted in 1000 Square Feet</u>		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
*Noxious weeds	None	None	None
**Objectionable weeds and perennial grasses	None	None	3
Other varieties	None	1	3

* Noxious weeds are those listed in the Virginia Seed law as prohibited plus poison ivy, poison oak.

** Orchardgrass, Timothy, Ryegrass, fescue in Kentucky bluegrass, Bentgrass, Bermudagrass, and other hard to control species.

5. Planting Stock Standards.

The seed standards for sod quality grass seed of Kentucky bluegrass, Red fescue and Tall fescue shall be:

All seed must be certified. A seed analysis of all lots of seed used in the mixture must be made by the Seed Laboratory of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and “Approved for Certified Sod Production.” Only varieties and mixtures as recommended by the Virginia Extension Division will be eligible. Certified seed tags and/or invoices will be required to verify the eligibility of the seed used.

The standards for sod quality grass seed of these species are as follows:

<u>Kind</u>	<u>Purity</u>	<u>Minimum Germination</u>	Maximum*	Lawn & Turf	
			<u>Other Crop Seed</u>	<u>Maximum* Weed Seed</u>	<u>Noxious Weed Seed</u>
Kentucky Bluegrass	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

* Must be free of Canada bluegrass (*Poa compressa*), 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.), ryegrass (*Lolium* spp.), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*).

** Off-types of Kentucky bluegrass shall not exceed 2% for any one component. Up to 90 Canada bluegrass per pound shall be permitted in Kentucky bluegrass.

*** Up to 30 ryegrass seed per pound shall be permitted in tall fescue.

Note: In an emergency, and at the discretion of the certifying agency, seed lots failing to meet these standards for other than genetic purity may be used for certified sod production. Use of such lots shall be made only when the certifying agency determines that there exists a serious shortage of seed meeting these standards.

**WARM SEASON VEGETATIVELY PROPAGATED TURF GRASS
CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

1. General Standards.

- a. The general seed certification standards as adopted by the Association are basic, and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for certification of vegetatively propagated turf grasses.

The general standards are modified as follows:

1. Foundation turf shall be the vegetative increase of breeder's turf, or in certain cases, the increase of Foundation turf.
2. *Registered turf shall be the vegetative increase of Foundation turf.
3. Certified turf shall be the vegetative increase of Registered or Foundation turf.
4. Life of stand: 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.

* A grower of Registered turf may increase his acreage of Registered turf from his own production provided the increase is adjacent and planted on land under the control of the grower. The size of such increase is not to exceed a total of ten (10) additional acres.

2. Land Requirements.

- a. All fields for the production of certified sod must be inspected prior to planting unless they have been producing certified sod.
- b. Have field boundaries designated at the time of inspection.
- c. Fields will need to be free of prohibited noxious weeds, contaminating grasses, and other crops.
- d. File with the Virginia Crop Improvement Association the number of acres for all fields intended for certification the year the field is established.
- e. An aerial photo of the farm or other suitable farm plans must be filed with the Virginia Crop Improvement Association.
- f. No animal manures or other material potentially containing seeds shall be applied on sod to be entered for certification.

3. Field Inspection.

a. Handling the crop after planting and prior to inspection:

A field must be rogued and/or sprayed with the recommended herbicides during the growing season to remove (1) other varieties, (2) other perennial grasses, (3) most common weeds, (4) objectionable and noxious weeds. Note: When spraying, the herbicide will be applied to the area of mixture plus an 18" border surrounding the outer limits of the visible area of mixture. Spraying will continue until the mixture is eradicated.

b. Time and number of inspections:

1. Foundation, Registered, and Certified (minimum of three inspections required).

4. Field Standards.

a. General.

1. Unit of Certification:

A field or portion of a field may be certified.

2. Isolation requirements:

Plantings of vegetatively propagated turf grasses must be isolated from any other variety and other perennial grasses by an artificial barrier and/or strip at least six (6) feet wide to prevent mixing during the growing season and harvesting operation.

b. Specific requirements.

Factor	Maximum Permitted in Each Class		
	Foundation ***	Registered ***	Certified***
* Other Varieties	None	2 per acre	5 per acre**
** Other Crops	None	None	1 per acre
Noxious/Objectionable Weeds	None	None	None
Other Living Plants	100/acre	200/acre	400/acre

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

** Other crops shall consist of all other kinds and varieties of perennial grasses.

*** Should other varieties, other crops, and noxious weeds be found in excess of standard during field inspection - roguing and eradication by spot spraying will be permitted to bring turf in line with standards. **Reinspection required and to be made not less than three weeks after rejection. There will be a reinspection fee paid by the producer.**

5. Turf Standards.

*Noxious Weeds None

* * Objectionable Weeds None

* See General Seed Certification Standards for list of noxious weeds.

** Objectionable weeds: Perennial sedges other than nutsedge (grass) and Dicrondra spp.