

SEED HANDLING; DO

- ◆ Determine the test dates of all seed inventory at the beginning of the season and every time new stock is received.
- ◆ Remove expired products from display; contact labelers for updated labels.
- ◆ Sell older seed before adding new seed to the display area.
- ◆ Avoid storing seed near pesticides.

Bulk Seed Bins—prevent cross contamination from other seed products

- ◆ Make sure bulk bins or containers are clean before adding seed.
- ◆ Make sure each bulk bin has a label attached that matches the original seed lot from the original container.
- ◆ Take precautions to avoid co-mingling different seed lots. *Only seed of one lot number per bin.*
- ◆ Avoid returning unused seed left over at the end of the selling season into original container.



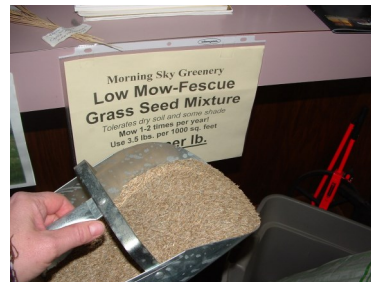
Photo: Tagawa.com

SEED HANDLING; DON'T

- ◆ Don't re-package seed to sell into your own container or baggie. IF you do, you must be registered as a seed labeler and the seed must be re-tested to produce an accurate label.



- ◆ Don't forget the label on bulk bins; a proper label contains germination, purity, test date and origin.



- ◆ Don't remove an original label from a bag when filling a bulk bin. Seed left in the bag is now unlabeled and unsaleable.

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COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Division of Plant Industry

Colorado Retailers Guide to Handling Seed

“The general assembly hereby finds and declares that truth in the labeling of seed is of paramount importance to the citizens of Colorado.”

Protecting Colorado Agriculture, Consumers and the Environment

Seed is alive. It must be handled and protected against conditions that will harm it and reduce its ability to germinate. If seed does not germinate and

grow it is not of value. Colorado State Seed Law requires that anyone who sells seed in the state be registered and that all seed be labeled.

Registration

◆ A Colorado seed registration is generally required

to label, sell, or custom clean seed in Colorado.

- ◆ Registration is required if:
- Pre-packaged seed is sold in quantities of *more than 1 pound* (applies to companies and individuals)
- Seed of any amount is packaged and labeled.

Labeling requirements

Every container of seed sold, or offered or exposed for sale in Colorado must have a legible, plainly written label or tag in English on it. A seed label guarantees the quality of the seed contained within a container, bin or package.

Labels must have information on them describing the:

- ◆ Name, kind, or type of seed
- ◆ A germination **test date** or "packed for" date
- ◆ % purity, % germination and origin of the seed
- ◆ Name and address of the person who labeled the seed.

Germination tests

Seed has a limited shelf life. Germination percentages listed on the label will decrease over time. As such, seeds need to be retested every 13 months. Grass seed needs to be retested every 16 months. Seeds in hermetically sealed containers need to be retested every 24 months.

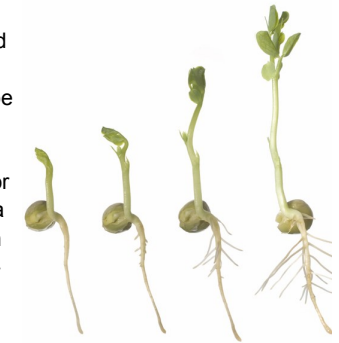
Retail seed dealers need to keep track of the germination test and expiration dates of the product on their shelves. New or updated labels with correct germination percentages can be requested from the labeling companies that provide seed. These new labels should be affixed to the expired product on the shelves, thereby bringing them back into compliance.

Stop Sale Orders

Colorado Department of Agriculture inspectors are allowed to enter retail businesses to inspect seed labels and pull samples of seed to check for weed seeds, and seed quality (germination and purity). Inspectors will also study the label to determine when the seed was last tested to make sure the seed has

not expired or exceeded the time between germination tests allowed by law. If seed does not comply with state law, a stop-sale will be issued.

A stop-sale order prohibits sale of the problem seed. Seed cannot be sold by a retailer until the label has been corrected and the stop-sale order has been lifted. A stop-sale order on expired seed means that the seed is older than permitted by law. This does not mean the seed is dead, only that germination needs to be retested by the labeler or seed packager. Once the seed has been retested it can be relabeled. Contact the seed labeler or packager for a new label with current germination information.



Storage and Handling of Seed

A tremendous amount of research science has gone into the development of high quality seed to ensure consistency and performance. The farmer, manufacturer, and seed packager (labeler) may strive to provide high quality seed, yet poor handling and storage by the retailer can kill seed. It is the retailers responsibility to store and handle seed in the warehouse and on the sales floor to maintain the guarantee of the seed label. Seed should be stored:

- ◆ under low temperature and humidity,
- ◆ away from direct sunlight, and
- ◆ inside, preferably in air conditioning.



Lot number
Each lot of seed is uniquely numbered. This number appears on all documents to that it can be traced back to its origin.

Pure seed - Purity
The % by weight of seed that is the named species. Purity should be greater than 90%.

Crop
The % by weight that is other than the pure species labeled but not considered weeds in your state. Crop seeds must be listed by name if more than 5% of content.

Inert
The % by weight of material that will not grow.

Weed
The % of weeds in this lot. A list of problem weeds in your state is available upon request.

Each seed company has an agricultural marketing number that must appear on its tags.

Variety name Species name

LIMOSINE KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS

LOT# 51.109.94-A

97.39% PURE SEED
00.00% OTHER CROP SEED
02.63% INERT MATTER
00.00% WEED SEED
AMS-527
NOXIOUS WEEDS: NONE FOUND

Germination
The % pure seed that will germinate in a laboratory environment. In rush situations, a chemical test (TZ test) can be performed in 24 hours that is more than 95% accurate on turf.

GERMINATION: 85%
ORIGIN: IDAHO
TEST DATE: 11/96
NET WEIGHT: 50 LBS.
(22.68 KGS)

Origin
State in which seed was grown.

Test date
Month and year this lot was tested for germination.

Net weight of container.

Noxious weeds
Those weeds defined by your state to be a problem or prohibited. *Poa annua* (often called annual bluegrass), which is undesirable in turf is considered a noxious weed in only a few states.

To determine PURE LIVE SEED, multiply the pure seed % by the germination %.

Pure seed, other crop seed, inert matter and weed seed % should equal 100%.