

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
HARD, SHEEP, BLUE & IDAHO FESCUE
(Festuca trachyphylla, Festuca ovina, Festuca ovina subsp. glauca, Festuca idahoensis)
 Approved February 12, 2013

Certification Standards: The general standards for seed certification found in the Oregon Seed Certification Service (OSCS) Handbook are basic to all crops, and together with the following specific regulations constitute the certified Hard, Sheep, Blue and Idaho fescue standards.

Varieties Certified: Varieties and classes eligible for planting may be found in the OSCS Handbook.

Field History: To be eligible to produce Foundation seed, land must not have grown or been seeded to any Fine fescue species (Chewings, Red, Hard, Sheep, Blue, Idaho, Annual) species during the previous five years. Land must not have grown or been seeded to these grasses during the previous 18 months to produce Registered or Certified seed unless the previous crop was of the same variety and class, and certified. Hard, Sheep, Blue and Idaho fescue must be planted in distinct rows. Exceptions must be approved by the Seed Certification Office prior to planting.

Field Inspections: Include a seedling and a seed crop inspection. The seedling application must be submitted within 60 days of planting, and a seed crop application must be submitted by April 15 of each year in which seed is produced.

Field Standards:

Class of seed produced	Maximum permitted Other Varieties ¹	Isolation Requirements ²	
		Less than 5 acres	More than 5 acres
Foundation	None	900 ft.	900 ft.
Registered	0.5%	660 ft.	300 ft.
Certified	1.0%	330 ft.	165 ft.

Seed Standards: (Minimum Sample Size – 1/2 Pound)

Factor	Foundation (White tag)	Registered (Purple tag)	Certified (Blue tag)
Pure seed, minimum	98.00%	98.00%	97.00%
Other crops ³ , maximum	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%
Inert matter, maximum	2.00%	2.00%	3.00%
Weed seed ⁴ , maximum	0.10%	0.30%	0.30%
Weed seed, GROUP A ⁵ , singly or combined	None	23/lb.	23/lb.
Only in Idaho fescue	None	15/lb.	15/lb.
Germination	85%	85%	85%
Germination, Wintergreen	80%	80%	80%

¹ Includes off-type plants.

² This distance must be maintained from Hard, Sheep, Blue and Idaho fescue, and for Hard or Sheep fescue from Annual fescue. Isolation is not required between varieties in the Hard – Sheep – Blue - Idaho fescue group adjacent to varieties in the Red fescue - Chewings fescue group. See section IV D, General Standards in the OSCS Handbook.

³ The ammonia test is done automatically on all certified seed lots of Hard, Sheep, Blue and Idaho fescue to determine the presence of yellow fluorescing Red and Chewings fescue; tolerances are: Foundation, zero yellow; Registered, one yellow; Certified, 2% yellow, where % yellow = # yellow ÷ (# yellow + # green) x 100. See section IX D 3, General Standards in the OSCS Handbook.

⁴ None of the prohibited weeds listed in Section V, General Standards in the OSCS Handbook, nor St. Johnswort allowed in any class of seed.

⁵ GROUP A – Buckhorn plantain, Docks, Sheep sorrel, and Bedstraw.