



Oregon Seed Certification Service
<http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu>

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
BERSEEM CLOVER
(Trifolium alexandrium)
 Revised February 23, 2023

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 standards for certified berseem clover.

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

Field History: Land must not have grown or been planted to berseem or crimson clover during the previous five years to be eligible to produce Foundation seed; during the previous three years to produce Registered seed. Land must not have been grown or been seeded to berseem clover during the previous two years to produce Certified seed. For Registered and Certified classes, these requirements are waived if the previous crop year of berseem clover was of the same variety, same or higher class, and passed certification field requirements for genetic purity. Berseem clover 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 other varieties permitted ¹	Isolation requirements ²	
		Less than 5 acres	More than 5 acres
Foundation ³	None	1320 ft.	1320 ft.
Registered ³	0.2%	660 ft.	330 ft.
Certified ³	0.5%	330 ft.	165 ft.
Between classes of same variety	10 feet		

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%	98.00%
Other crops, maximum	0.10%	0.25%	0.40%
Inert matter, maximum	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Weed seed ⁴ , maximum	0.25%	0.25%	0.50%
Weeds, GROUP A ⁵ , singly or combined	None	27/lb.	45/lb.
Germination (including hard seed)	85%	85%	85%

¹ Includes off-type plants.

² See Section IV, D in the OSCS Handbook.

³ An OSU Seed Lab Orobanchae exam is required if small broomrape is found in a certification field inspection. Two samples are to be submitted in separate containers: one for the Orobanchae exam, the other for standard purity and viability testing.

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

⁵ GROUP A – bedstraw, buckhorn plantain, dock, sheep sorrel, wild carrot, and giant bristlegrass (foxtail)