



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

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
SUNFLOWER
(Helianthus annuus)
 Approved February 10, 2009

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 open-pollinated sunflower.

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

Field History: Land must not have grown or been seeded to any *Helianthus* species for at least one year. Sunflowers must be planted in distinct rows. Exceptions must be approved by the Seed Certification Office prior to planting.

Field Inspection: Each field of open pollinated sunflowers must be inspected twice to include a seedling and a seed crop inspection. The field application must be submitted by June 15th, or within 30 days of planting if planted on or after June 1st. Any condition which prevents adequate inspection may become a reason to reject the field. The first inspection shall be made prior to the bloom stage. The second shall be made after at least 50% of the plants are in bloom, but before they are fully matured.

Isolation: No isolation required between classes of the same variety except mechanical separation. Flowering plants of other varieties, strains, hybrids, volunteer sunflowers, non-certified crops of the same variety, and hybrid or wild *Helianthus annuus* species within the isolation distance must not exceed 1:5000 plants based on the size of the production field.

Field Standards:

| Factor | Foundation | Registered | Certified |
|---|------------|------------|-----------|
| Other varieties ¹ , maximum | 0 | 5:1000* | 5:1000* |
| Isolation ² , minimum | 1.5 mi | 1 mi | 1 mi |
| Volunteer plants may be a cause for rejection or reclassification of a seed field | | | |

Seed Standards: (Minimum Sample Size – 1 Pound)

| Factor | Foundation | Registered | Certified |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Purity | 99.00% | 98.00% | 98.00% |
| Other crops | 1 per pound | 1 per pound | 6 per pound |
| Other varieties | 1 per pound | 1 per pound | 6 per pound** |
| Inert matter | 1.00% | 2.00% | 2.00% |
| Weed seed ³ | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.10% |
| Sclerotinia | 0 | 1/lb. | 1/lb. |
| Germination | 85% | 85% | 85% |

*The 5:1000 includes the 1:5000 plant tolerance within the isolation distance.

**Not more than 1 purple or white seed per pound.

¹ Includes off-type plants.

² No isolation required between classes of the same variety except mechanical separation.

³ None of the prohibited weeds listed in Section V in the OSCS Handbook, nor any bedstraw or St. Johnswort.