



## Oregon Seed Certification Service

Department of Crop and Soil Science

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## Variety Application Process

There are two application types for you to consider when submitting a cultivar/variety for acceptance into the Oregon seed certification program: one for a documented variety and the other for an experimental line. Please complete and submit the appropriate application and materials based on the circumstances described in the following paragraphs. Each of the forms may be completed electronically by inserting the requested information in the space provided or selecting one of the options from an available drop-down list. Using the tab key will help you navigate through the form. A signed *Variety Ownership Declaration* form must accompany all variety applications.

The **OSCS Experimental Line Application** is used for a cultivar that is not yet documented and recognized for certification. Once accepted into the OSCS Experimental Line program, production of the experimental line may be inspected, and qualifying production labeled with a tag issued by OSCS identifying the seed lot as an experimental line. An experimental line will be eligible for inspection for three consecutive harvests at which time it must be formally applied and approved for certification, or dropped from the experimental line program. In some cases, a fourth year of eligibility may be granted upon written request if additional time is needed to complete documentation of the cultivar for certification. The *OSCS Experimental Line Application* and *Variety Ownership Declaration* forms must be submitted for each cultivar under development for which certification will be sought.

The OSCS **Certified Variety Application** is used for a documented variety that is officially approved by an AOSCA national variety review board, by another certification agency (AOSCA or OECD), by a university or state agricultural experiment station, or officially submitted for U.S. plant variety protection (PVP), or U.S. plant or utility patent (PTO). Please indicate which of these scenarios applies as the basis for review when completing the *OSCS Certified Variety Application* form. Each of the items (A-G) listed on the form must be addressed in the submitted documentation.

- For a variety previously accepted by an AOSCA national variety review board, issued a PVP certificate or PTO patent, or accepted for the OECD Seed Scheme, you will need to submit:
  - a copy of the *OSCS Certified Variety Application* and *Variety Ownership Declaration* forms;
  - a copy of the signed PVP, PTO, or OECD application and its supporting materials;
  - a copy of their approval notification;
  - a two-cup sample of representative seed.
  - If additional testing is required for certification (e.g., herbicide resistance bioassay), an *Additional Requirements for Certification (ACR)* form MUST accompany the application.
  
- For a variety submitted for PVP or PTO review (but not yet accepted), accepted by another AOSCA agency, or released by a university/state agricultural experiment station, you will need to submit:
  - a copy of the *OSCS Certified Variety Application* and *Variety Ownership Declaration* forms;
  - a copy of the signed PVP, PTO, agency or university/state agricultural experiment station application and its supporting documentation;
  - a two-cup sample of representative seed.
  - If additional testing is required for certification (e.g., herbicide resistance bioassay), an *Additional Requirements for Certification (ACR)* form MUST accompany the application.

Applications will be reviewed by the Oregon Certification Review Committee on a first-come-first-serve basis and should be submitted prior to planting field production intended for OSCS inspection. **Guidelines for grass variety applications are listed separately** (see *Application Instructions for Certified Grasses* on our website). Applications requiring urgent consideration may be assessed a special handling fee. Please note that variety codes are not accepted for certification purposes in Oregon. All certified varieties will be listed by variety name only.

The **Variety Ownership Declaration** (VOD) form allows the owner of the variety (or experimental line) the option to designate a licensee or production contractors for the cultivar, and allows the licensee or contractor the option to authorize OSCS to release their OSCS production data to a third party. All OSCS field records of a propriety cultivar list an authorized production contractor to receive copies of the field inspection reports and other correspondence concerning its production. The recognized licensee or contractor may allow, at their option, OSCS to report production data about the cultivar to the owner, or other designee by indicating their choice on the VOD form and signing it. If a licensee or contractor is not listed on the VOD form, the owner will be assumed by OSCS to be the production contractor. Oregon statutes prevent OSCS from providing proprietary production information to anyone other than the field applicant or authorized contractor without special permission. Whether or not either of these options is utilized, the owner of the variety (or experimental line) must sign the VOD form.