



Oregon Seed Certification Service

<http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu>

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
BALL CLOVER
(Trifolium nigrescens)
 Revised February 7, 2024

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 ball 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 seeded to any ball clover during the previous five years to be eligible to produce Foundation seed nor during the previous three years to produce Registered seed. Land must not have grown or been seeded to ball clover during the previous two years to be eligible to produce Certified seed. For Registered and Certified class, these requirements are waived if the previous crop year of ball clover was of the same variety, same or higher class, and passed certification requirements for genetic purity. Ball clover must be planted in distinct rows. Exceptions must be approved by the Seed Certification Office prior to planting.

If Foundation seed is planted, one Registered seed crop and two Certified seed crops may be harvested.

If Registered seed is planted, two consecutive Certified seed crops may be harvested.

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 the year that 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.

Seed Standards: (Minimum Sample Size – 1/4 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	None	22/lb.	22/lb.
Weeds, GROUP A ⁴ , combined	None	67/lb.	67/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 wild carrot or small broomrape allowed in any class of seed.

⁵ GROUP A – sheep sorrel, buckhorn plantain, docks and *Galium* spp.