



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

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
BIG BLUEGRASS
(Poa secunda)
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 big bluegrass.

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

Field History: To produce Foundation and Registered seed, land must have been free of big bluegrass for five years. Land must not have grown or been seeded to another variety of big bluegrass for production of Certified seed during the previous three years. For Registered and Certified classes, these requirements are waived if the previous crop year of big bluegrass was of the same variety, same or higher class and passed certification field requirements for genetic purity. Big bluegrass 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	Rough Bluegrass in Big Bluegrass	Minimum isolation ^{2, 3} (varieties ≥80% apomictic)
Foundation	None	None	60 ft.
Registered	0.1%	None	30 ft.
Certified	2.0%	---	15 ft.

Seed Standards: (Minimum Sample Size – 1/4 Pound)

Factor	Foundation (White tag)	Registered (Purple tag)	Certified (Blue tag)
Pure seed, minimum	95.00%	95.00%	95.00%
Other crops ⁴ maximum	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%
Inert matter, maximum	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Weed seed ⁵ , maximum	0.10%	0.30%	0.30%
Weed seed, GROUP A ⁶ , singly or combined	None	None	45/lb.
Germination, minimum	80%	80%	80%

¹ Includes off-type plants as may be designated by the varietal description.

² See Section IV, D in the OSCS Handbook. For varieties <80% apomictic, isolation distances of 900, 300, and 165 feet are required for Foundation, Registered, and Certified classes, respectively. For Certified class only, varieties that are ≥95% apomictic shall have an isolation requirement reduced to only a mechanical separation. Mechanical separation is required between rough bluegrass and big bluegrass, and between wood bluegrass and big bluegrass.

³ The following isolation rules may be applicable to big bluegrass fields to reduce isolation requirements: (a) The 10% Rule for Certified class fields ≥5 acres, when the isolation zone is less than 10% of the field [use 15 ft. to calculate the area of the isolation zone]; (b) Border Removal for fields ≥5 acres [for varieties <80% apomictic, see Section IV, D; for varieties ≥80% apomictic, 9 feet of border removal within the field can reduce isolation to 30 ft. for Foundation and 15 ft. for Registered; no further reduction is allowed for Certified class]; and (c) The 25% Rule for isolation between generations of the same variety.

⁴ No rough bluegrass allowed in Foundation or Registered class of big bluegrass (10 gram test).

⁵ None of the prohibited weeds listed in Section V in the OSCS Handbook allowed in any class of seed. No annual bluegrass allowed in Foundation or Registered class of big bluegrass.

⁶ GROUP A - buckhorn plantain, docks, sheep sorrel and *Galium* spp.