



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

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
HARD, SHEEP, BLUE & IDAHO FESCUE
(Festuca trachyphylla, Festuca ovina, Festuca ovina subsp. glauca, Festuca idahoensis)
 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 hard, sheep, blue and Idaho fescue standards.

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

Field History: To be eligible to produce Foundation seed, land must not have grown or been seeded to any fine fescue species (chewings, red, hard, sheep, blue, Idaho, annual) species during the previous five years. Land must not have grown or been seeded to these grasses during the previous 18 months to produce Registered or Certified seed. For Registered and Certified classes, these requirements are waived if the previous crop year of hard, sheep, blue or Idaho fescue was of the same variety, same or higher class, and passed certification field requirements for genetic purity. Fine fescue 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	Isolation Requirements ²	
		Less than 5 acres	More than 5 acres
Foundation	None	900 ft.	900 ft.
Registered	0.5%	660 ft.	300 ft.
Certified	1.0%	330 ft.	165 ft.

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%	97.00%
Other crops, maximum	0.10%	0.10%	0.25%
Ammonia test ³ , maximum	Zero Yellow	One Yellow	2% Yellow
Inert matter, maximum	2.00%	2.00%	3.00%
Weed seed ⁴ , maximum	0.10%	0.30%	0.30%
Weed seed, GROUP A ⁵ , singly or combined Only in Idaho fescue	None None	23/lb. 15/lb.	23/lb. 15/lb.
Germination	85%	85%	85%

¹ Includes off-type plants.

² See Section IV, D in the OSCS Handbook. Isolation is required between varieties of hard, sheep, blue and Idaho fescue, and between varieties of hard or sheep fescue and varieties of annual fescue. Isolation is not required between varieties in the hard, sheep, blue, Idaho fescue group adjacent to varieties in the red fescue, chewings fescue group.

³ The ammonia test is used to determine the presence of strong, slender and chewings fescue. See Section IX, D3 in the OSCS Handbook.

⁴ None of the prohibited weeds listed in Section V in the OSCS Handbook allowed in any class of seed.

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