



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

**CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**  
**TALL FESCUE**  
*(Festuca arundinacea\*)*  
 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 tall fescue.

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

**Field History:** Land must not have grown nor been seeded to these listed species and for the periods of time, as follows:

Previous crop	Time out required		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Annual Ryegrass	0	0	0
Perennial Ryegrass	0	0	0
Intermediate Ryegrass	0	0	0
Festulolium 2x/4x	0	0	0
Festulolium 6x	5 yrs.	18 mos.	18 mos.
Tall Fescue	5 yrs.	18 mos.	18 mos.
Meadow Fescue	5 yrs.	18 mos.	18 mos.

For Registered and Certified classes, these requirements are waived if the previous crop year of tall fescue was of the same variety, same or higher class, and passed certification field requirements for genetic purity. Tall 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 <sup>1</sup>	Isolation Requirements <sup>2</sup>	
		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%	98.00%
Other crops, maximum	0.10%	0.10%	0.50%
Inert matter, maximum	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Weed seed <sup>3</sup> , maximum	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%
Weed seed, GROUP A <sup>4</sup> , singly or combined	None	27/lb.	27/lb.
Germination, minimum	85%	85%	85%
Germination, minimum Alta, Fawn, Kentucky 31	90%	90%	90%

\*Taxonomists place tall fescue in one of three genera: as *Festuca arundinacea* (see USDA Germplasm Resource Information Network – GRIN); as *Schedonorus arundinaceus* (see Flora of North America, Vol. 24, pgs. 446-448; USDA, NRCS Plants Database; and Integrated Taxonomic Information System –ITIS); and as *Lolium arundinaceum* (see USDA, NRCS Plant Guide and Plant Fact Sheet for tall fescue).

<sup>1</sup> Includes off-type plants.

<sup>2</sup> See Section IV, D in the OSCS Handbook. This distance must be maintained from tall fescue and festulolium 6x, and for Foundation and Registered classes from meadow fescue.

<sup>3</sup> None of the prohibited weeds listed in Section V in the OSCS Handbook allowed in any class of seed.

<sup>4</sup> GROUP A – buckhorn plantain, docks, sheep sorrel and *Galium* spp.