



CERTIFICATION STANDARDS
WHITE CLOVER
(Trifolium repens)
 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 white clover.

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

Field History: To produce Foundation seed, land must never have been seeded to or grown any white clover; must have been five years free to produce Registered seed (three of those years cultivated); must have been three years free to produce Certified seed. (With Certified class, the time interval may be shortened by one year if one cultivated row crop or clean fallow intervened). White clover 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 cop 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 ³	None	1320 ft.	1320 ft.
Registered ³	0.2%	660 ft.	330 ft.
Certified ³	1.0%	330 ft.	165 ft.
Between classes of same variety		10 ft.	

Special Requirements: A Foundation and/or Registered field may produce only two successive seed crops following seeding, except that each may be reclassified to the next lower class after being harvested for two years. A Certified field on which a stand of perennial plants is maintained may produce a maximum of four successive seed crops following seeding. Volunteer plants will be cause for rejection at the end of the second seed crop.

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%	450 seeds of one crop or 0.25% combined	
Sweet Clover, maximum	None	90/lb.	180/lb.
Inert matter, maximum	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Weed seed ⁴ , maximum	0.10%	0.30%	0.30%
Weed seed, GROUP A ⁵ , singly	None	23/lb.	23/lb.
Weed seed, GROUP A ⁵ , combined	None	69/lb.	69/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 Orobancha 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 Orobancha 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 – buckhorn plantain, docks, sheep sorrel and *Galium* spp.