

Early Sampling Program

The Program

The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for preliminary germination and fluorescence testing of ryegrass lots, under specific guidelines and qualifications.

Early Sampling applications must be received no later than **April 15**. A downloadable version can be found here: https://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/sites/seedcert.oregonstate.edu/files/es_18_application.pdf.

Fee: \$75 per field. An invoice will be sent after eligibility has been determined. All other standard certification fees apply.

The Criteria

- Annual or Perennial ryegrasses only.
- Seedstock fields are not eligible.
- No “volunteer” fields will be accepted into the program.
- Fields must have no more than 1% (trace) other ryegrass contaminant in the field history or previous samples.

Process

- Contractor submits the application to the OSCS office no later than April 15.
- OSCS evaluates inspection history and makes notification of individual field eligibility. An invoice is sent in May. Following the crop inspection, sample labels and bags are issued for fields that retain eligibility ONLY.
- Contractor is responsible to collect a representative sample from within the windrows, clean it, and submit it to the OSU Seed Lab. The label provided will indicate that the sample is for the Early Sampling Program, and upon receipt, will initiate the germination and fluorescence tests. The Seed Lab will assess a fee for samples that are not adequately cleaned before submission.
- At harvest, an official Certification sample must be requested, which is taken and submitted to the seed lab for the purity and a second germination and fluorescence test. If the early sample fluorescence indicates less than 1% other ryegrass (after accounting for Variety Fluorescence Level), and the preliminary purity information meets certification standards, certification tags can be issued for the lot. Contractor must use the Early Sampling Tag Eligibility Request form to request tags.

Limitations and Responsibilities

- There is no advance tagging option based on seven-day counts for the Early Sampling Program.
- Seed companies should request review of preliminary purity and tagging as they do on other eligible lots. It is fully understood that the individual and/or seed company making the request for the Early Sampling program accepts full risk and responsibility for those seed lots that may not qualify for final certification on a final laboratory test report issued from the OSU Seed Laboratory.