



## Jeff McMorran

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TO: Companies contracting certified production of OECD Annual Ryegrass  
FROM: Jeff McMorran, Seed Certification Specialist  
RE: **OECD Annual Ryegrass Early Tagging Program (ETA)**

The Oregon Seed Certification Service OECD Annual Ryegrass Early Tagging Program (**ETA**) allows for the tagging and shipment of OECD Annual Ryegrass seed prior to completion of the ploidy and florescence tests'. It involves: (1) An additional field inspection just prior to bloom to confirm that the field *should* meet tolerances for other ryegrass types and off types; and (2) An earlier ploidy test of tetraploid varieties using a field leaf sample. Passing these two pre-harvest requirements will qualify the lot harvested for tagging prior to completion of all lab tests. Lots from fields not passing the pre-bloom inspection or ploidy test may still be eligible for certification provided they pass all inspections and post-harvest lab tests, but will not be eligible for early tagging.

**Benefits:** Potential to tag and ship lots up to 14 days earlier than possible without the program \*<sup>1</sup>

**Risks:** (1) **Additional costs:** Fee + extra ploidy testing requirements; (2) **Tag revocation:** Early tagged lots that are found to NOT pass final seed tests are no longer considered certified. They are subject to revocation of the OECD Certificate and return of certification tags. Failure of lots in this manner will result in withdrawal of the right to use the program.

**INTEREST NOTIFICATION:** Field signups for this program will be *exclusively* via the eCertification web page <https://w3.oscs.orst.edu/online/> however to enable you to have this option **you must let OSCS know now that you may be interested** in the program (otherwise the “Sign-up ETA Fields” option will not show up on your sign in page). Expressing an interest in the ETA program at this point in no way obligates you to sign up any fields, it simply allows you to do so if you decide to later.

**INTEREST:** To express an interest in being able to sign up fields for this program please contact the OSCS office by phone (**541-737-4513**) or eMail [seedcertrequests@oregonstate.edu](mailto:seedcertrequests@oregonstate.edu) This should be done immediately.

**DATES:** The sign up period for OECD Annual Ryegrass fields to be included in this program is **March 10 – April 15** (NO FIELDS WILL BE ACCEPTED INTO THE ETA PROGRAM AFTER THIS DATE). Fields that are signed up, and pass all required testing and inspections, will be eligible for early tagging through October 1<sup>st</sup>. After this date lots must have all test completed before being eligible for tagging.

**NOTE – FIELD ELIGIBILITY:** Only OECD Annual Ryegrass fields for which a seedling application has already been received by the time of sign up are eligible. Furthermore, fields not eligible for this program include (1) ‘**volunteer**’ fields; only seeded fields are considered eligible (either new fields or plant-back fields); (2) Fields for which the seedling was a ‘**Marginal Acceptance**’ due to volunteer levels; (3) **Ploidy history issues** – plant-back fields (i.e., fields planted in the same location the previous year) for which the seed ploidy test for this location the previous year was 95% or greater are not eligible;

**BILLING:** Companies using the program will be billed for qualifying fields at \$3.50/acre. The current OSU Seed Lab charge for ploidy tests, which is required for Tetraploid varieties, is \$135 per test.

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<sup>1</sup> i.e., for a lot to be eligible for tagging it must have (1) Entered the program and passed a pre-bloom field inspection and leaf ploidy test (tetraploid varieties); (2) passed a 'regular' crop inspection; (3) passed a TZ and Purity test on the harvested seed; (4) have floescence and seed ploidy test 'pending'. **Note:** Ploidy test is only required on tetraploid varieties.