

FORBS (WILDFLOWERS) STANDARDS

(As of February 2017)

The general Seed Certification Standards, as adopted by the Montana Seed Growers Association, are basic, and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for certification of seed of formally released forbs (wildflowers).

I. Land Requirements

- A. **Foundation Seed** - Breeders seed for the production of Foundation seed must be planted only on land on which no forb of the same species has been seeded or grown for at least the preceding two years, during one or more of which the land was cultivated. The land must be free from volunteer plants as determined by a field inspection during the seedling year. (The seedling inspection is to be applied for immediately after planting.)
- B. **Registered Seed** - Breeder or Foundation seed for the production of Registered seed must be planted only on land on which no forb of the same species has been seeded or grown for at least the preceding two years, during one or more of which the land was cultivated except the time interval may be omitted if the last seed crop was of the same variety and met Foundation seed requirements.
- C. **Certified Seed** - Breeder, Foundation or Registered seed for the production of Certified seed must be planted only on land on which no forb of the same species has been seeded or grown for at least the preceding two years except (1) the time interval may be shortened one year if one cultivated crop or clean fallow has intervened or (2) the time interval may be omitted if the last seed crop was of the same variety and met Foundation or Registered seed requirements.
- D. Do not apply manure or other contaminating material to the land in preparation for planting of all certified classes or during the productive life of the stand. Any livestock grazing that permits the distribution of contaminating seed should not be permitted.

II. Isolation

A field producing Foundation, Registered or Certified seed must have the minimum isolation distance, as given in the table below, from (a) fields of any other variety of forbs of the same species or (b) fields of the same variety that do not meet varietal purity and seed history requirements for production of a class of seed equal to or higher than that to be produced from the field being inspected.

Class*	Cross-Pollinated Species	Self-Pollinated Species
Foundation	900 feet	165 feet
Registered	900 feet	165 feet
Certified	900 feet	80 feet

*Isolation distance between classes of the same variety may be reduced to 25% of that indicated.

III. Field Standards - General

- A. The field shall be considered the unit of certification and a field cannot be divided after inspection for the purpose of certification. A field is an area of land bounded by (1) a fence; (b) a road; (c) another crop from which forbs do not require isolation; or (d) a strip of cultivated ground, a ditch, or some other distinct line of demarcation at least six feet wide. This distance should not be confused with isolation requirements.
- B. Volunteer plants may be cause for rejection or reclassification of a seed production field.

IV. Field Standards - Specific

The following table indicates the maximum tolerance of impurities allowed in field of forbs eligible for certification as determined by field examination:

Ratio of Plants - Maximum Permitted

Factor	Fdn	Reg	Cert
*Other varieties	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%
	1:1,000	1:1,000	1:1,000

* Other varieties will be considered to include off-type plans that can be differentiated from the variety that is being inspected.

V. Field Inspection

To be eligible for certification, a field of forbs must be inspected in the field when the crop to be saved for seed is in full bloom.

VI. Eligibility

Varieties of forbs are on the limited generation system. The Foundation class will produce the Registered class, the Registered class will produce the Certified class. The Certified class is not eligible for recertification.

VII. Preparation of Seed for Final Certification

A. Cleaning

1. Clean all seed at an approved plant authorized by the MSGA. A list of authorized cleaning plants is available through the MSGA office or website www.mtseedgrowers.org.
2. Seed delivered to the cleaning plant by grower must be identified by variety and certification number. A copy of the grower's Application for Certification or field inspection form will suffice.

VIII. Seed Standards

Species	Class	Germ & hard seed (min.) %	Purity (min.) %	Inert (max.) %	Weed Seed (max.) %	Prohibited or Restricted Weed Seed*	Other Crop Seed* (max.)	Other Varieties (max.) %	Other Crops (max.) %
Purple Prairie	Fdn.	60.00	95.00	5.00	0.20	None***	0.20	0.10	0.10
Clover	Reg.	60.00	95.00	5.00	0.40	None***	1.00	1.00	0.10
(<i>Petalostemum purpureum</i>)	Cert.	60.00	95.00	5.00	1.00	None***	2.00	2.00	0.25
Grayhead Prairie	Fdn.	60.00	90.00	10.00	0.20	None***	0.20	0.10	0.10
Coneflower	Reg.	60.00	90.00	10.00	0.40	None***	1.00	1.00	0.10
(<i>Ratibida pinnata</i>)	Cert.	60.00	90.00	10.00	1.00	None***	2.00	2.00	0.25

* As listed in the General Standards

** But never to exceed 0.25% seed of other forb species.

*** "None" means none found during the normal inspection procedures.

"None" is not a guarantee to mean the lot inspected is free of the factor.

IX. Pre-variety Germplasm

Refer to the section in the back on "Pre-Variety Germplasm Standards" or call the MSGA office (406-994-3516) for standards pertaining to seed produced as pre-variety germplasm.