

Constitution  
of the  
Montana Seed Growers Association  
Restated and Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

**Article I - Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Montana Seed Growers Association ("Association"), a nonprofit organization governed by the laws of the State of Montana.

**Article II - Purpose & Objectives**

Section 1. The Association's primary purposes are to maintain and encourage the highest quality standards of seed for all crops, except potatoes and mint, grown in Montana ("crops"); foster public acceptance and use of superior crops and cultivars of the highest quality; promote seed-quality research, teaching, and extension activities; promote domestic and international seed trade; and foster collaboration between certified seed producers and dealers across Montana.

Section 2. The Association fulfills this purpose by:

- a. Cooperating with the Montana State University Plant Sciences & Plant Pathology Department, Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations, and Montana's Cooperative Extension Service, and their successor organizations, in the production of superior crop cultivars;
- b. Establishing minimum standards for genetic purity, cultivars' identity and standards for seed quality for the classes of certified seed;
- c. Maintaining and making available to the public all sources of certified seed released and grown to preserve the genetic identity with high levels of mechanical quality;
- d. Informing the public as to the true value of certified seed and encourage its use by the public, Association members, and commercial growers;
- e. Cooperating with the private seed industry, individuals, agencies, and organizations who are directly or indirectly concerned about the development, propagation, marketing or use of improved cultivars;

- f. Cooperating with the State of Montana's Department of Agriculture in administrating the Montana Seed Law and abiding by the laws and regulations of Montana pertaining to seed labeling, movement and distribution; and
- g. Adopting and administering a seed certification process that, through a process of application, field inspection, seed conditioning and laboratory tests, insures genetic purity and preserves varietal identity of seed, and that is in accord with the rules and regulations set by the Federal Seed Act, the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies, and the Montana Seed Law, as may be amended and updated, (collectively, "applicable seed certification law").

### **Article III - Internal Affairs of the Association**

The Association shall be governed by a Board of Directors and managed by an Executive Director who is supervised and managed by the Board of Directors. Should there be no Executive Director, the Board of Directors may appoint another employee to manage the Association. In the absence of either an Executive Director or a delegation of management responsibilities, the Board of Directors shall be responsible for managing the Association.

### **Article IV - Bylaws**

The Association shall adopt Bylaws which shall set forth rules, guidelines, and processes related to governance, operations, membership, elections, and meetings, among other provisions. Approving and amending the Bylaws shall be within the purview of the Board of Directors, subject only to limitations set forth in said Bylaws.

### **Article V - Amendments**

Section 1. Member Approval. Upon the initiative of the Board of Directors, this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members voting by ballot. The vote shall be conducted by written ballot, whether mailed or electronic. The ballot shall set forth all suggested amendments to the Constitution, the threshold required for approval, and the due date for completed ballots.

Section 2. Notice; Counting of Ballots. Members shall have fifteen (15) days in which to return ballots to the Association, beginning from the date the ballots were sent to members. Counting of ballots received by the Association shall commence not sooner than the sixteenth (16th) day after ballots were sent to members and may continue until the earlier of: i) achieving the threshold for approval set forth in Article III, Section 1, or ii) an additional five (5) business days.

## Certification of Adoption

The undersigned hereby certifies that the foregoing Constitution of the Montana Seed Growers Association was approved and adopted by the requisite number of members and the Board of Directors, shall therefore be effective as of the date set forth above, and shall fully supersede and revoke any other Constitution of the Association.

DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_