

# SORGHUM 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 standards for certification of sorghum (*Sorghum vulgare*) seed.

## I. Land Requirements

Sorghum shall be planted on land on which the previous crop was of another kind, including sudangrass and broomcorn, or was planted with certified seed of the same variety.

## II. Isolation

A. Fields or parts acceptable for the production of any class of Certified seed must have a minimum isolation distance from fields of any other variety or fields of the same variety that do not meet the varietal purity requirements for certification in the table below.

Class	Feet
Foundation	990
Registered	990
Certified	660

B. The following exceptions are made to the minimum isolation distance required for Certified seed fields of sorghum only:

\*If the contaminating source is genetically different and has the same chromosome number, the distance shall be 990 feet. The minimum isolation from grass sorghum or broomcorn with the same chromosome number shall be 1,320 feet. This includes off-type plants in this certification that may occur within the isolation distance specified.

## III. Field Standards – Specific

Factor	Maximum permitted – Ration of Heads		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Other varieties			
-definite	1:50,000	1:35,000	1:20,000
-doubtful	1:20,000	1:10,000	1:1,000

## IV. Field Inspection

1. Foundation and Registered seed fields shall be given two field inspections as follows:
  - a. The first inspection shall be made during bloom, preferably in full bloom
  - b. The second field inspection shall be made before harvest, but after the seed begins to assume mature color.
2. Certified seed fields shall be inspected before harvest but after the seed begins to assume mature color.

## V. 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](http://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.

B. Seed Sample for Grade Determination

1. Submit a cleaned, 1 1/2 pound seed sample labeled with the growers name, cleaning plant name, certification number, and lot number to the Montana Seed Growers Association office for “Certified Grade Determination”.
2. Use official MSGA seed sample bags obtained by calling the MSGA office.
3. If multiple lots from the same field are harvested and cleaned separately, a sample for purity and germination must be submitted for each clean lot.

C. Tag orders should be noted on the “Conditioner’s Report”. Tags will be issued upon receipt of production fees or at the discretion of MSGA.

**VI. Seed Standards**

Factor	Standards for Each Class		
	Foundation %	Registered%	Certified%
Pure seed (min.)	98.00	98.00	98.00
Inert matter (max.) <sup>(1)</sup>	2.00	2.00	2.00
Weed seeds (max)	0.10	0.10	0.10
Total other crop seeds (max.)	0.01	0.03	0.08
Other Varieties (max.)	0.005	0.01	0.05
Other Kinds (max.) <sup>(2)</sup>	0.01	0.03	0.07
Germination (min.)	80.00	80.00	80.00

<sup>(1)</sup> Inert matter shall not include more than 0.5% of material other than seed fragments of the variety under consideration.

<sup>(2)</sup> Other kinds shall not exceed 2 per pound for Foundation, 6 for Registered, 10 for Certified.