

FIELD BEAN 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 field bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) seed.

I. Land Requirements

- A. Land must not have been planted to or grown beans the previous year. The land must be free of volunteer plants.
- B. A field on which bacterial blight has been found will not be eligible to grow certified beans for three crop years. The intervening crops must be of another kind (species).
- C. Use of a sprinkler irrigation system for producing any certified class of field beans is not generally recommended.

II. Isolation

A field or a portion of a field must be separated from any other variety or uncertified field of beans by a mowed or un-cropped strip at least 10 feet wide.

III. Field Standards - General

- A. Poor stands, lack of vigor or uniformity, weedy growth, or conditions which may hinder accurate inspection or bring certified seed into disfavor will be cause for rejection.
- B. Certified fields adjoining a field known to be contaminated with Bacterial Blight will be disqualified for certification.
- C. Field sub-lots (up to 20 acres allowed each), if so desired, must be identified on the *Application for Certification* and shall be staked at each end of the field with a steel post.

IV. Field Standards - Specific

Factor	Ratio of Plants – Maximum Permitted		
	Fdn	Reg	Cert
Other varieties	1:2,000	1:1,000	1:500
Other kinds or crops (inseparable)	None	1:2,000	1:1,000
Diseases: Anthracnose	None	1:10,000	1:5,000
Bacterial Bean Blights	None	None	None
Bean Common Mosaic Virus	None	1:2,000	1:1,000
Wilt	None	None	None
Mosaic (Seed beans)	None	1:200	1:100
Noxious weeds - Prohibited or Restricted	None	None*	None*
Nightshade spp.	1/acre**	2/acre**	2/acre**

* Lack of evidence of control will be cause for rejection

** Nightshade spp. (with berries) must be removed from windrow/field (if harvested in upright condition) prior to final inspection.

V. Field Inspection

- A. Remove off-type or diseased plants and objectionable weeds by hand roguing prior to field inspection.

- B. Field inspection for off-type and diseased plants will be made at the discretion of the certifying agency during the crop year. Fields will be inspected two times during the growing season. The second inspection must be performed on the crop in the windrow or just prior to direct harvest.
- C. Seed produced on fields combined prior to inspection will not be eligible for certification.

VI. Harvesting and Seed Handling

Harvesting, handling, storing, and processing of beans requires better than average attention to prevent skinning of seed coat and cracking.

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.
- B. Seed Sample for Grade Determination
 - 1. Submit a cleaned, 3-5 pound seed sample indicating grower 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 fields are harvested and cleaned separately, a sample for purity and germination must be submitted for each clean lot.
- C. Label orders should be noted on the "Conditioner's Report". Labels will be issued upon receipt of production fees or at the discretion of MSGA.

VIII. Seed Standards

Factor		Fdn %	Reg %	Cert %
Pure Seed	min.	95.00	99.00	99.00
Inert Matter**	max.	1.00	1.00	1.00
Weed Seed	max.	N.S.	None*	0.10
Splits and Cracks	max.	1.00	1.00	1.00
Total Other Crop Seed	max.	None*	None*	0.10
Other Varieties	max.	None*	None*	0.10
Noxious Weed Seed		None*	None*	None*
Germination	min.			
Faba, Pinto, Mungbeans, Navy		N.S.	85.00	85.00
Garden Beans		N.S.	75.00	75.00

N.S. - No Standard

* None means none found during the normal inspection procedures.

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

** Inert matter cannot consist of more than 0.50% foreign material (dirt or rock)