

BUCKWHEAT 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 buckwheat (*Fagopyrum esculentum*).

I. Land Requirements

A crop of buckwheat will not be eligible for certification if planted on land on which the same kind of crop was grown the year previous unless the previous crop was grown from certified seed of the same variety.

II. Isolation

- A. At the time of inspection, the field must be separated from other fields by a fence, row, natural boundaries, or by a strip at least 10 feet wide, which is either mowed, uncropped, or planted to some other separable crop.
- B. When it is necessary to remove a strip to obtain proper isolation, the part of the strip to be removed must be cut into the field to be inspected.
- C. All buckwheat fields producing certified seed must be isolated by at least 660 feet from buckwheat fields of any other variety or fields of the same variety that do not meet the varietal purity requirements for certification.

III. Field Standards - Specific

Factor	Ratio of Plants - Maximum Permitted		
	Fdn	Reg	Cert
Other Varieties ^{1/}	1:10,000	1:5,000	1:2,000
Inseparable Other Crops	1:10,000	1:7,000	1:5,000
Prohibited Noxious Weeds ^{2/}	None	None	None

^{1/} Other varieties shall be considered to include plants that can be differentiated from the variety that is being inspected. However, other varieties shall not include variations which are characteristic of the variety.

^{2/} Includes only Leafy Spurge and Russian Knapweed. The tolerance for other prohibited weeds in the field will be determined by the inspector on the basis of stages of development of both the crop and the weed.

IV. Field Inspection

- A. All field inspection of buckwheat will be made in the bloom stage.
- B. A field harvested before inspection will not be eligible for certification.
- C. All rogueing must be done before field inspection is made. Rogued plants must not be left in the field to be harvested. Patches of prohibited weeds must be either removed by cutting or must be controlled by other means so that no seed is produced.

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.
 - 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, 2 ½ pound seed sample labeled with 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. 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		Fdn %	Reg %	Cert %
Pure Seed	min.	99.00	99.00	99.00
Total Weed Seeds	max.	5/lb*	5/lb*	5/lb*
Other Varieties	max.	0.01	0.01	0.10
Other Crop Seeds	max.	1/2 lb	1/lb	3/lb
Inert Matter	max.	1.00	1.00	1.00
Noxious Weeds Seeds		None	None	None
Germination	min.	85.00	85.00	85.00

*Not more than 3 of 1 kind.