Understanding a Seed Label

There is a lot of important information on a seed label. Knowing how to read and interpret that information will help you buy the proper seed for your planting needs.

**Variety** - A subdivision of a kind, which has characteristics which differentiate it from other plants of the same kind. Most varieties are protected by federal law and can only be sold by the company that developed them.

**Kind** - The actual plant that will grow from the seed.

**Test Date** - When the germination % was determined. The older the date, the lower the actual germination % may currently be. **By law this date cannot be more than 9 months old.**

**Germination %** - The percent of all of the seed in the container that is capable of growing into a plant.

**Hard Seed** - Seeds which do not germinate because of a hard seed coat.

**Inert Matter** - Anything in the container that is not a seed.

**Other Crop Seed** - All kinds and varieties of agricultural seeds not specifically named on the label.

**Weed Seed %** - The amount of weed seeds, by weight, included in the container. State law restricts the number of seeds allowed per pound. See the back for more information.

**Noxious Weed Seed** - No noxious weed seeds are allowed in any container of agricultural seed. Some of the species listed as noxious may only be noxious in other states. Only Kansas noxious weed seeds are prohibited. See the back for more information.

**Net Weight: 25 lbs.**

Be sure to look carefully because the location of each type of information can be different on each label.
# Weed Seed Restrictions

"Noxious Weed Seed" means the seed of:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field Bindweed</th>
<th>Musk Thistle</th>
<th>Sericea Lespedeza</th>
<th>Johnsongrass</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bur Ragweed</td>
<td>Canada Thistle</td>
<td>Hoary Cress</td>
<td>Leafy Spurge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quackgrass</td>
<td>Pignut</td>
<td>Kudzu</td>
<td>Russian Knapweed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas Blueweed</td>
<td>Sorghum almum, and any plant whose seed cannot be distinguished from Johnsongrass</td>
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Other species may be listed as noxious weeds on the label. These may be noxious in other states and may be Restricted Weed Seeds (see below), but are not noxious in Kansas and are therefore allowed to be in the seed package.

"Restricted Weed Seed" means weed seeds which shall not be present in agricultural seed at a rate in excess of:

- **9 seeds per pound**: wild oats (Avena fatua), climbing milkweed or sandvine (Cynanchum laeve, syn. Gonolobus laevis), jointed goatgrass (Aegilops cylindrica), black nightshade complex (Solanum ptycanthum, S. americanum, S. sarrachoides, S. nigrum, S. interius), wild buckwheat or black bindweed (Polygonum convolvulus), velvetleaf or butterprint (Abutilon theophrasti) and cocklebur (Xanthium spp.);

- **18 seeds per pound**: wild onion or garlic (Allium spp.), charlock (Sinapsis arvensis), wild mustards (Brassica spp.), treacle (Erysimum spp.), wild carrot (Daucus carota), morning glory and purple moonflower (Ipomoea spp.) pennycress or fanweed (Thlaspi arvense), hedge bindweed (Calystegia spp., syn. Convolvulus sepium) and dodder (Cuscuta spp.), except lespedeza seed, other than sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata), which may contain 45 dodder per pound, ;

- **45 seeds per pound**: Silverleaf nightshade (Solanum elaeagnifolium), horsenettle or bullnettle (Solanum carolinense), dock (Rumex spp.), oxeye daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum), perennial sowthistle (Sonchus arvensis), giant foxtail (Setaria faberi), cheat (Bromus secalinus), hairy chess (Bromus commutatus) and buckthorn plantain (Plantago lanceolata).

The total number of the restricted weed seed shall not exceed 90 per pound.

Native grass, smooth brome grass, tall fescue, wheatgrasses and lespedeza, other than sericea lespedeza (Lespedeza cuneata), shall not exceed 150 per pound.

Hairy chess or cheat shall not exceed 2,500 per pound when found in smooth brome grass, fescues, orchard grass, wheatgrasses and chaffy range grasses.

For the purposes of this section the following weedy Bromus spp. shall be considered as common weeds and collectively referred to as "chess": Japanese chess (Bromus japonicus), soft chess (Bromus mollis) and field chess (Bromus arvensis).