

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.

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

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

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

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

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.**

PASTURE GROWTH - MIDWEST MIXTURE

Pure Seed	Variety	Kind	Germination	Hard Seed	Origin
42.31%	Dawn	Orchardgrass	90%	0.0%	OR
28.60%	Fairy	Tall Fescue	90%	0.0%	OR
9.99%	Pasturemax Alfalfa		90%	0.2%	Can
9.96%	Grazer Timothy		90%	0.0%	NZ
5.98%	White Clover*		90%	0.0%	Unknown
0.03%	Other Crop Seed				
3.12%	Inert Matter				
0.01%	Weed Seed				

* Variety not stated
 Noxious Weed Seed: None Found
 Test Date: 1/15
 Net Weight: 25 lbs.
 Midlands Seed Company, 19476 Woodbridge Road, Fairview, Iowa 56487
 Lot # PGMM - 12715 - 002

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 a list of weeds and the amount allowed.

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.

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:

Field Bindweed	Musk Thistle	Sericea Lespedeza	Johnsongrass
Bur Ragweed	Canada Thistle	Hoary Cress	Leafy Spurge
Quackgrass	Pignut	Kudzu	Russian Knapweed
Texas Blueweed	Sorghum almum, and any plant whose seed cannot be distinguished from Johnsongrass		

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 (*Sonchum 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*).