

Interpreting a Seed Label

A seed label contains a lot of important information. Familiarize yourself with these definitions and always read the label before you buy any seed.

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

Variety - A subdivision of a kind, which has characteristics which differentiate it from other plants of the same kind.

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

Test date - When the germination % was determined. By law this date cannot be more than 9 months old.

Weed seed % - The amount of weed seeds, by weight, included in the container. State law restricts the number of seeds allowed per pound.

Noxious weed seed - No seeds listed in Kansas as noxious are allowed in any container of agricultural seed.

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.

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

PASTURE GROWTH - MIDWEST MIXTURE

Pure Seed	Variety	Kind	Germination	Hard Seed	Origin
42.31%	Dawn	Orchardgrass	90%	0.0%	OR
28.80%	Fairy	Tall Fescue	90%	0.0%	OR
9.99%	Pasturemax Alfalfa		90%	0.2%	Can
9.98%	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

For more information on the
state seed program,
go to:

agriculture.ks.gov/Seed

To see a full version of the seed law (Sale
and Distribution of
Agricultural Seeds),
K. S. A. 2-14-15 et. seq. ,
go to:

http://kslegislature.org/li/b2015_16/statute/

To register online as a seed dealer,
go to:

<https://www.kansas.gov/kda-seed>



For more information,
contact:

Kansas Department of Agriculture
1320 Research Park Drive
Manhattan, KS 66502

KANSAS SEED LAW

K. S. A. 2-14-15 et. seq.

Protecting the state's
agricultural resources
from the ground up

A review of the state statute
regulating the sale and
distribution of agricultural
seed.

The Kansas state seed law regulates agricultural seed which includes grass, legume, forage, cereal and fiber crop seeds. Vegetable, fruit, flower, tree and shrub seeds are considered horticultural seeds and are not regulated.

The requirements within the seed law are there to benefit the producer, dealer and consumer by requiring the seed be tested and labeled before it is offered for sale. This ensures that the consumer can determine the quality of the seed before purchasing it and the producer and dealer are protected against unfair competition by non-compliant people selling low quality seed.

The seed law can basically be broken down into three sections; Labeling, Registration and Certification. Each of these and their impact on both the retailer and consumer will be discussed in this brochure.

Labeling

Any agricultural seed being offered for sale for the purpose of planting must be labeled, and labeled truthfully. The information that must be included on this label is specifically outlined in the law. See the back of this page to learn about some of the information required. The location of this information on the label is not specified so each label may be organized differently.

To ensure that the information on the label is accurate, the Kansas Department of Agriculture regularly collects samples of seed being offered for sale throughout the state and has it tested in a laboratory. Violations result in regulatory actions being taken against the person who labeled the seed. KDA inspectors also review the labels of the seed being sold to ensure that they are complete and up to date.

Registration

Every person in the business of selling agricultural seed for the purpose of planting must register with KDA. Anybody selling to the person doing the planting is considered to be a retailer and



must register as such. Everybody who sells seed to anyone other than the end user needs to register as a wholesaler. Anyone who does business as both a wholesaler and a retailer needs to register as both. Registration fees are based on the type of business being conducted. Seed conditioners must also register but are not charged a registration fee.

To register as either of these types of businesses, you can go online and fill out the form and pay the registration fee with a credit card. You can also call KDA at (785) 564-6698 and request an application form be sent to you and pay with a check or money order.

The money paid into the state seed fund through these registration fees goes to pay for the administration of the seed program and the enforcement of the seed law.

Certification

You may have come across a blue tag attached to seed containers in addition to the usual white tag.



These blue tags designate the contents as certified seed which is seed of a known variety that has been inspected and found to be genetically pure. These inspections are conducted by an authorized agency to verify that the seed has met state, federal and international requirements.

There are four classes of certification. The first, or breeder class are those seed produced directly by the organization that bred the variety. The other classes are each one generation removed from the next and handled to maintain satisfactory genetic purity and varietal identity.

Buying certified seed ensures that the qualities and desired characteristics such as yield, vigor and disease resistance that were originally developed in the variety will still be evident in the plant that grows from the seed you bought. Cross breeding with other varieties or non-certified seed can reduce or eliminate these characteristics.

The Department of Agriculture's seed program is constantly working to ensure consumers are protected by truth-in-labeling principles and fair competition among seed businesses through quality and reliability standards.