

Specific Quality Assurance Standards Soybeans

I. Explanation of General Standards as Applied to Soybeans

A. The General Seed Quality Assurance (QA) Standards as adopted are basic and together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for QA of soybean seed.

B. The General Standards are further defined as follows to apply specifically to soybeans:

Classes and sources of QA seed:

1. Breeder seed shall be seed obtained from the original breeder or his/her legal successors and shall be used for the initial and recurring seed increases of Parent seed.
2. Parent seed shall be seed obtained from the increase of Breeder or Parent seed produced by a Foundation Seed Producing Agency, or by the sponsoring company/organization.
3. QA seed shall be the progeny of Breeder, Parent, or designated QA seed source that meet parental standards by the sponsoring organization.

C. Eligibility Requirements:

1. Products initially entering the QA program must show proof of origin of seed and be approved by a certifying agency.
2. Products must also be accompanied by an adequate plant and seed description enabling the agency to make accurate and reliable field and seed evaluations. This description will be kept on file by the agency. Additional testing requirements beyond visual must be defined by the sponsoring company.
3. Varieties currently marketed as Certified Seed are not eligible to be labeled under the QA program unless authorization is given by the originating institution.

II. LAND REQUIREMENTS

The crop shall not be overgrown on land on which soybeans were grown the previous crop year, unless that crop was grown from Breeder, Parent, or QA class of seed of the same variety or another variety with a different flower color or pubescence color.

III. FIELD INSPECTIONS

At least one field inspection shall be made when variety purity can best be determined, preferably after the leaves have dropped. Fields producing Parent seed should also be inspected at a time the blossom color may be observed.

IV. FIELD STANDARDS

A. General requirements

1. Unit of QA certification

A field or portion of a field may be approved if the area to be certified is clearly defined and the inspector has proper assurance that seed from the certified portion will not become mixed with the other seed.

2. Isolation

A field boundary shall be a strip of ground not in soybeans and at least five feet in width.

B. Specific requirements

Factor	Breeder	Parent	QA
Other varieties and off-types (max.)	0.02%	0.1%	0.2%
Weeds ¹ (max.)	----	----	----

¹ If severe will cause rejection.

V. SEED STANDARDS

A. Sample size – two (2) pounds representing the entire seed lot.

B. The following seed standards must be met:

Factor	Breeder	Parent	QA	Below Standard
Pure Seed (min.).....	98.00%	98.00%	98.00%	96.00%
Inert Matter (max.).....	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%	4.00%
Weed Seed ¹ (max.).....	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.05%
Restricted Noxious Weeds ² (max.)...	None	None	None	1/lb. ³
Other Crop Seed (max.)				
Other Kinds.....	None	2/lb. ⁴	3/lb. ⁴	5/lb. ⁵
Other Varieties and Off-Types ⁶	0.04%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%
Germination (min.).....	----	80%	80%	70%

¹ Shall not exceed 10 per pound.

² “Noxious Weed List”, Rules, Regulations, Definitions and Standards of the N.C. Department of Agriculture. (See Certification Handbook, General Seed Certification Standards, Section XII. “Contaminating Crops and Weeds”)

³ For cocklebur permit one bur per pound.

⁴ Prohibit corn and cowpeas.

⁵ Permit one per pound each of corn or cowpea.

⁶ Off-colored beans due to environmental factors shall not be considered other varieties.