

## **Specific Certification Standards Grass - Warm-season Turf**

### **I. General Seed Certification Standards as Applied to Warm-season Turfgrass**

A. The General Seed Certification Standards as adopted are basic and together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for certification of warm-season turfgrass (bermuda, centipede, St. Augustine, and zoysia).

B. The General Seed Certification Standards are modified as follows to apply specifically to warm-season turfgrass.

Section IX. Classes and Sources of certified seed for **vegetatively propagated** turfgrass

1. Foundation turf shall be the vegetative increase from Breeder turf and will be produced by the North Carolina Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., or other originator.
2. Registered turf shall be the vegetative increase from Foundation turf.
3. Certified turf shall be the vegetative increase from Foundation or Registered turf.
4. The life of the stand will continue for all classes of vegetatively propagated turfgrass as long as the varietal and mechanical purity for the class is maintained, unless life of stand is more narrowly defined by the originator or sponsoring agency.

**OR**

Section IX. Classes and Sources of certified seed for **sexually propagated** turfgrass

1. Foundation turf shall be the vegetative increase from Breeder seed.
2. Registered turf shall be the vegetative increase from Foundation seed.
3. Certified turf shall be the vegetative increase from Foundation, Registered, or Certified seed.

### **II. Land Requirements**

A. A field must be inspected prior to planting and be free of all perennial grasses and objectionable/noxious weeds to be eligible for the production of Registered and Certified turf. This requirement may be waived only with the approval of the Director of North Carolina Crop Improvement Association.

B. A field for production of Foundation or Registered turf must be fumigated with a recommended soil fumigant using recommended rates and procedures to control all pests. This requirement may be waived only with the approval of the Director of North Carolina Crop Improvement Association.

### **III. Field Inspections**

A. A pre-plant inspection will allow the inspector to observe the previous crop, possible pest, field layout and other factors that contribute to successful stand establishment and compliance with certification standards. This requirement may be waived only with the approval of the Director of North Carolina Crop Improvement Association.

B. Foundation, Registered, and Certified turf shall have at least two annual inspections. Additional inspections will be done if required by the originator per licensee contract for a variety of turfgrass. Once taken out of certification (missing one or more annual inspection) acreage cannot be brought back into the certification program.

- C. After stand establishment and prior to inspection, a field must be rogued and/or sprayed with the herbicides sufficiently during the growing season to remove other varieties, perennial weeds, and objectionable/noxious weeds.
- D. Inspector will mark areas of turf that do not meet certification standards with wired plastic flags.

**IV. Field Standards**

A. General requirements

1. Unit of certification

A field or portion of a field may be certified. Acreage of each field will be reported. If a portion of a field does not meet the field standards during inspection, the map of the field will clearly indicate the portions of the field with acreage estimates for each portion.

2. Isolation

Plantings of turfgrass must be isolated from any other variety and other perennial grasses by an artificial barrier and/or a strip at least six (6) feet wide to prevent mixing during the growing season and harvesting operations

B. Specific requirements (maximum permitted)

Factor	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Off-Types*	1/acre	2/acre	5/acre
Other Living Plants	50/acre	100/acre	200/acre

\*Off-types shall consist of all other kinds and other varieties than the variety being produced

- If factor is found in excess of standards and area flagged by inspector, roguing and/or eradication by spot spraying will be permitted to bring turf within standards.
- *If field or partial field is rejected three consecutive inspections due to genetic purity, the field will be subject to inspection penalty fees until it is brought into conformity. If partial field is removed from certification, a border strip must be installed promptly, prior to next inspection. Inspection Penalty set at \$20/acre for each consecutive inspection until passes.*

**V. Turf Standards**

A. No noxious/objectionable weeds are permitted.

B. An official certificate or tag will accompany each shipment of certified sprigs, sod, or plugs.

C. A complete record on the amount of certified turf sales will be maintained and made available to North Carolina Crop Improvement Association. The record will include class, kind and variety, field number, date of shipment, and amount of turf shipped (square feet, cubic feet, bushels, etc.).