

## Specific Certification Standards Grass - Turfgrass Plugs

### I. Application and Amplification of General Certification Standards

- A. The General Seed Certification Standards, as adopted by the association are basic and together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for certification of Turfgrass Plugs.
- B. Definitions
  - 1. **Sprigs:** plant material (rhizome/stolon) that originated from a Certified class\_turfgrass production field
  - 2. **Seedlings:** plants grown from seeds.
  - 3. **Plugs:** young plants raised in small, individual cells, intended for commercial sale.
  - 4. **Growth Facility:** enclosed structure for offseason production/ controlled environment (greenhouse, low tunnel, etc.)
  - 5. **Open Plug Production Area:** non-controlled environment/area for establishing the plug trays
- C. The General Certification Seed Standards are amplified as follows to apply specifically to Turfgrass Plug certification.
  - 1. All Certified plugs must be grown from a class of certified seed or certified sprigs. Proof of seed/clone eligibility shall be established by providing either a certified tag/label with invoice showing the lot number and pounds received or documentation of sprig production under the Warm-Season Turfgrass Certification Standards.
  - 2. All containers must be labeled in a manner that maintains the source, identity and certification eligibility of the plugs during the production cycle. All containers offered for sale must be identified by the official seed certification tag/label. The tag/label must be affixed (stapled, for example) to trays so tags/labels are not misplaced.

### II. Growth Facility, Open Plug Production Area Standards

- A. Open plug production areas will be inspected for phenotypic purity, mechanical separation, general physical condition and appearance of plants at least once after plugs are established and ready for sale (*4 to 6 weeks after planting*).
- B. Open Plug Production Areas must be designed so that no other contaminants are allowed to grow in this area; rock bedding, weed cloth, elevated growing areas, etc.
- C. Growth Facility produced plugs shall be inspected for varietal labeling, phenotypic purity, isolation, general physical condition and appearance of plants at least once after plugs are established and ready for sale (*4 to 6 weeks after planting*).
- D. Maximum off-type or other variety shall not exceed 0.2%, or 20 in 10,000. No other living plants allowed. Nonconforming plugs must be removed and destroyed.
- E. At the time of the final inspection, the number of plugs produced must be verified by agency personnel.
- F. Plugs may be rejected for non-compliance with these standards.
- G. Any condition that shall not permit adequate inspection to determine genetic purity shall be cause for rejection.
- H. Unlabeled or inadequately labeled plugs will be ineligible for certification.
- I. Certifying agency personnel may conduct additional inspections as necessary to ensure certification standards are met.
- J. Growers are responsible for adhering to State and Local regulations pertaining to the sales of living plants.

**III. Growth Facility Isolation Standards**

- A. When two or more varieties are being grown in the same greenhouse or traditional production area (field), there must be an 18” unplanted area between the varieties. The production area, flats and/or containers for each variety must be clearly labeled in a manner that prevents mixing or misidentification.
- B. Growers must handle plugs throughout the growing, establishing, and plug sales in a manner that prevents the accidental or mechanical mixture of containers of different varieties.

**IV. Labeling Standards**

- A. All certified plugs offered for sale must be labeled with official certification tags or labels. Each container of plugs must have an agency certification label firmly attached to be sold as certified plugs. Failure to properly label plugs at the time of sale, will revoke the certification status and will result in not being eligible for sale as certified plugs.