

# SOYBEANS

## Specific Certification Standards

### I. EXPLANATION OF GENERAL STANDARDS AS APPLIED TO SOYBEANS

- A. The General Seed Certification Standards as adopted are basic and together with the following specific standards constitute the standards for certification of soybean seed.
- B. The General Standards are further defined as follows to apply specifically to soybeans:
  - 1. Section IX. Classes and sources of certified seed
    - a. Breeder seed shall be seed obtained from plant-to-row plantings of fixed types or other methods acceptable to the breeder and the Association. It shall be produced by the original breeder or his legal successors and shall be used for the initial and recurring seed increases of foundation seed.
    - b. Foundation seed shall be seed obtained from the increase of breeder or foundation seed produced by the North Carolina Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., or by the sponsoring agency.
    - c. Registered seed shall be the progeny of breeder or foundation seed.
    - d. Certified seed shall be the progeny of breeder, foundation or registered seed.
  - 2. Section XI. Handling of crop prior to inspection  
Off-type soybean plants or other objectionable plants, such as corn and cowpeas, should be removed from the field.

### 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 certified, registered or foundation seed of the same variety.

### 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 foundation seed should also be inspected at a time the blossom color may be observed.

### IV. FIELD STANDARDS

- A. General requirements
  - 1. Unit of 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                               | Foundation | Registered | Certified |
|--------------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Other varieties and off-types (max.) | 0.02%      | 0.1%       | 0.2%      |
| Weeds <sup>1</sup> (max.)            | ----       | ----       | ----      |

<sup>1</sup> 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   | Foundation | Registered         | Certified          |
|--|------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Pure Seed (min.).....                            | 98.00%     | 98.00%             | 98.00%             |
| Inert Matter (max.).....                         | 2.00%      | 2.00%              | 2.00%              |
| Weed Seed <sup>1</sup> (max.).....               | 0.02%      | 0.02%              | 0.05%              |
| Restricted Noxious Weeds <sup>2</sup> (max.)...  | None       | None               | 1/lb. <sup>3</sup> |
| Other Crop Seed (max.)                           |            |                    |                    |
| Other Kinds.....                                 | None       | 2/lb. <sup>4</sup> | 3/lb. <sup>4</sup> |
| Other Varieties and Off-Types <sup>5</sup> ..... | 0.04%      | 0.2%               | 0.4%               |
| Germination (min.).....                          | ----       | 80%                | 80%                |

<sup>1</sup> Shall not exceed 10 per pound.

<sup>2</sup> “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”)

<sup>3</sup> For cocklebur permit one bur per pound.

<sup>4</sup> Permit one per pound each of corn or cowpea.

<sup>5</sup> Off-colored beans due to environmental factors shall not be considered other varieties.