

FLAX

Linum sp.

SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS IN CALIFORNIA

GENERAL STANDARDS -- The standards on this sheet are in part condensed and apply to flax. For greater detail and additional provisions, see the General Standards.

PLANTING STOCK -- In most varieties Breeder seed must be planted to produce Foundation seed, Foundation seed must be planted to produce Registered seed, and Registered seed must be planted to produce Certified seed. In varieties where there is no Registered class, Foundation seed must be planted to produce Certified seed.

APPLICATION -- Applications should be submitted electronically on CCIA's website (<http://ccia.ucdavis.edu>) no later than eight (8) weeks after planting. New applicants should contact the CCIA office for instructions.

FIELD ELIGIBILITY -- The land must not have grown the same crop during either of the two previous years unless the flax was of the same variety planted for certification and met the field inspection requirements for varietal purity.

ISOLATION -- Fields or portions of fields intended for certification must have a definite boundary such as a fence, ditch, roadway, levee, or barren strip at least ten (10) feet wide.

FIELD INSPECTION -- Each field intended for certification must be inspected prior to harvest. At least one (1) inspection shall be made when flax is in full bloom.

Off-types -- Every field should be rogued to remove any plants of another crop or variety. Excess volunteer plants may be cause for rejection or reclassification of a seed field. Varieties cannot always be differentiated at field inspection. When differences can be distinguished, the maximum mixture of other varieties, established volunteers, and inseparable other crops permitted are as follows:

Foundation	Registered	Certified
1:5000	1:3000	1:1000

Weeds -- Fields must be free of any prohibited noxious weeds. Restricted noxious weeds, and common weeds difficult to separate must be controlled. Prohibited and Restricted noxious weeds are listed in the California Seed Law/CA Code of Regulations/Sections 3854 and 3855. Fields may be refused certification due to unsatisfactory appearance caused by weeds, poor growth, poor stand, disease, insect damage, and any other condition which prevents accurate inspection or creates doubt as to identity of the variety. A Field Inspection Report will be available to the applicant online. If the field is approved, a certification number will be assigned. This number

must be on all containers of seed before they leave the field. It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure his field has been inspected before it is harvested.

HARVESTING -- Harvesting is subject to the supervision of the local County Agricultural Commissioner who must be contacted prior to harvest. Any seed moved out of the county must be accompanied by an Inter-County or Interstate Permit issued by the Commissioner.

CONDITIONING AND SAMPLING -- Conditioning of seed for certification may be done only in facilities approved for this purpose by the California Crop Improvement Association. It is the responsibility of the applicant to determine if the facility is eligible before delivering seed for conditioning. Conditioning, sampling, reconditioning, and blending must be supervised by the County Agricultural Commissioner. Conditioning equipment must be free from contaminating seed to the satisfaction of the supervising inspector.

SEED INSPECTION - All seed must be sampled and tested after conditioning and the seed lot must meet or exceed seed certification standards for that crop. A seed lab using the Association of Official Seed Analyst "Rules for Testing" must test the sample. A Registered Seed Technologist must sign each lab analysis. In addition to AOSA rules, specific seed testing may be required to meet CCIA seed certification standards.

The conditioner is required to submit a 300 gram sample to the laboratory for analysis. In some instances, varietal identity cannot be determined by visual seed inspections. Seed must be well screened and graded, bright in color, of good appearance and meet the following standards:

	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Pure Seed (Minimum)	99.0%	99.0%	98.0%
Inert Matter (Maximum)	1.0%	1.0%	2.0%
Other Kinds (Maximum)	8 seeds/lb.	8 seeds/lb.	10 seeds/lb.
Other Varieties (Maximum)	0.05%	0.05%	0.1%
Weed Seed (Maximum)	0.05%	0.05%	0.1%
Noxious Weed Seed	None	None	None
Germination and Hard Seed (Minimum)	85%	85%	85%

RETAINED SAMPLES – The conditioner must also retain in storage a 300 gram sample of each lot certified. These shall be maintained for one year and be made available for any CCIA audits and reference testing.

FINAL CERTIFICATION AND TAGGING -- If the seed sample meets all standards a Seed Inspection Report is issued. Before certification is complete, however, each container must have an official tag or label attached. Certified seed may be sold to a grower in bulk without tagging if a properly filled out Bulk Sale Certificate accompanies the shipment. The tags and Bulk Sale Certificates are issued by the California Crop Improvement Association.