

TURFGRASS

(Standards for vegetatively propagated or seeded turfgrass for vegetative production) SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS IN CALIFORNIA

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

PLANTING STOCK -- Definition of terms:

- Foundation Turf – shall be the increase of breeder’s sprigs or in certain cases the increase of foundation sprigs or seed.
- Registered Turf* – shall be the increase of foundation sprigs or seed.
- Certified Turf – shall be the increase of registered sprigs or seed or foundation sprigs of seed.

*A grower of registered turf may increase the original foundation class planting to no more than 10 acres if the increase is continuous within the original field and a CCIA inspector is present at harvest and planting.

APPLICATION – CCIA must be notified two weeks prior to planting to allow for a pre-planting inspection.*

Applications should be submitted electronically on CCIA’s website (<http://ccia.ucdavis.edu>) no later than two (2) weeks after planting. New applicants should contact the CCIA office for instructions.

*See Field Eligibility and Field Inspection sections for more detail.

FIELD ELIGIBILITY -- Fields of all classes must be free of perennial grasses, objectionable weeds, and noxious weeds and shall be inspected by CCIA prior to planting for verification of isolation and removal of contaminating weeds and volunteers.

All Foundation and Registered class grass will be produced on fumigated land or must be inspected for an entire growing season prior to planting and must be free of perennial grasses, objectionable weeds, and noxious weeds. If Certified class fields are planted on fumigated land, they must comply with the fumigation requirements.

All land fumigated with approved material must lay idle for a period of not less than three weeks after fumigation (or not less than six weeks when converting to like species) and be inspected by CCIA and be free of the abovementioned contaminating plants. Land must receive adequate moisture, (a minimum of 3/4” per week) and soil temperature (60° F. at 4” soil depth) must be adequate to allow any live plants not eradicated by fumigation to emerge.

The field size shall not exceed the following:

Foundation	Registered	Certified
10 acres	10 acres	No limit

ISOLATION -- Plantings of vegetatively propagated turfgrasses or seeded turfgrasses must be isolated from any other variety and other perennial grasses and other certification classes by an artificial barrier and/or strip at least ten (10) feet wide to prevent mixing during the growing season and harvesting operation. Pollen producing varieties must be isolated to prevent contamination from other species. Distance from source of contamination will be determined by the CCIA after collaboration with a knowledgeable turfgrass breeder.

AGE OF STAND -- Fields of all classes may continue for as long as the varietal and mechanical purity for the class is maintained. Fields of all dwarf turfgrass varieties will be limited to five years of certification.

FIELD INSPECTION -- One inspection is required prior to the establishment of the field and one inspection is required after its establishment. For a field to be eligible for the production of Foundation, Registered or Certified turf, there must have been an inspection prior to planting to verify the field to be free of all perennial grasses, objectionable and noxious weeds. A second inspection will be made approximately four to six weeks after planting.

Handling the Crop after Planting and Prior to Inspection -- A field must be rogued and/or sprayed with the recommended herbicides during the growing season to remove; other varieties, other perennial grasses, most common weeds, objectionable and noxious weeds. Note: When spraying, the herbicide will be applied to the area containing the mixture plus an 18” border surrounding the outer limits of the visible area of mixture. Spraying will continue until the mixture is eradicated

Time and number of inspections -- Three inspections are required for fields of all classes. The timing of these inspections should closely follow:

1 st Inspection	2 nd Inspection	3 rd Inspection
Spring (March, April or May)	Summer (June, July or August)	Fall (September or October)

Every two years an intensive field inspection will be made of the Registered Class. A representative area of the field (10%) will not be harvested until seed heads appear.

Production fields that fail to meet the published varietal purity standards for the class applied for within one growing year will be permanently downgraded to the next lowest class if the field meets the standard of the next class or be removed from certification.

FIELD INSPECTION --

General:

1. Restrictions on number of varieties per farm: Only one variety of a kind may be grown for certified turf on a farm except with prior approval of the certifying agency.
2. Unit of Certification: A field or portion of a field may be certified. A registered field may not be divided for certification.

Specific:

Factor	Foundation***	Registered***	Certified***
Other Varieties*	None	None	1 plant/acre
Other Crops**	None	None	1 plant/acre
Other living plants	1 plant/100 sq. ft.	1 plant/100 sq. ft.	1 plant/100 sq. ft.
*Other Varieties shall consist of all other varieties of the kind being produced.			
**Other Crops shall consist of all other kinds and varieties of perennial grasses.			
*** Other live varieties, other live crops and live noxious weeds found in excess of standards during field inspection must be eradicated.			

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.

If field is rejected, a reinspection is required and to be made not less than three weeks after rejection, cost of re-inspection to be paid by applicant. Those live plants found by an inspector must be eradicated by grower. Other living plants, shall not to exceed one plant per 100 sq. ft.

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 the field has been inspected before it is harvested.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GROWER --

Each lot or shipment of turfgrass must be accompanied by a Certified Turfgrass Certificate that must be signed by an Authorized Representative of the Applicant/Grower.

The turfgrass applicant must notify the CCIA office in writing the name of the person(s) authorized to sign the certificates. The Authorized Representative is responsible to:

1. Make certain that all grass represented on the certificate was inspected and accepted for certification.
2. Make certain the Certificates contain all the required information and is correct (i.e., kind, variety, quantity, billing invoice, field #, harvest date, and grower information).

3. Make sure that grass represented by the certificate continues to meet the appropriate CCIA Turfgrass Standards after the CCIA inspection.
4. Make sure the certificate accompanies each shipment of grass.
5. Mail or e-mail the appropriate certificate copy to CCIA office on a weekly basis.
6. Prevent non-certified grass from being sold as certified grass.
7. Make certain that those records required in the CCIA Turfgrass Standards are maintained.

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