



Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# AMS

Creating Opportunities for  
American Farms & Businesses



# United States Perspective Seed Testing and Certification

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USDA-AMS-Science and Technology Program*

# Science and Technology Program (S&T)

Provides scientific, certification, and analytical services to the agricultural community to improve the quality, wholesomeness, and marketing of agricultural products.

## Divisions

- Laboratory Approval & Testing Div. (LATD)
- Monitoring Programs Div.
- Plant Variety Protection Office (PVPO)
- Seed Regulatory & Testing Div. (SRTD)





# SRTD: Federal Seed Act Program (FSA)

*The FSA program ensures that seed traded for planting purposes contain the information necessary for buyers to make informed purchasing choices.*

REGULATES LABELING,  
ADVERTISING OF SEED,  
AND **FEDERAL SEED  
TESTING METHODS**

COORDINATES AND LEADS  
A NATIONAL NETWORK OF  
OVER 600 STATE SEED  
INSPECTORS  
THROUGHOUT THE U.S.

COOPERATES WITH THE 50  
STATES TO ENFORCE THE  
FEDERAL SEED ACT  
**-WHICH INCLUDES-**  
U.S. SEED CERTIFICATION



# U.S. Seed Certification and Testing

**Certification** in the United States falls under the authority of the USDA and requirements are included in the Federal Seed Act.

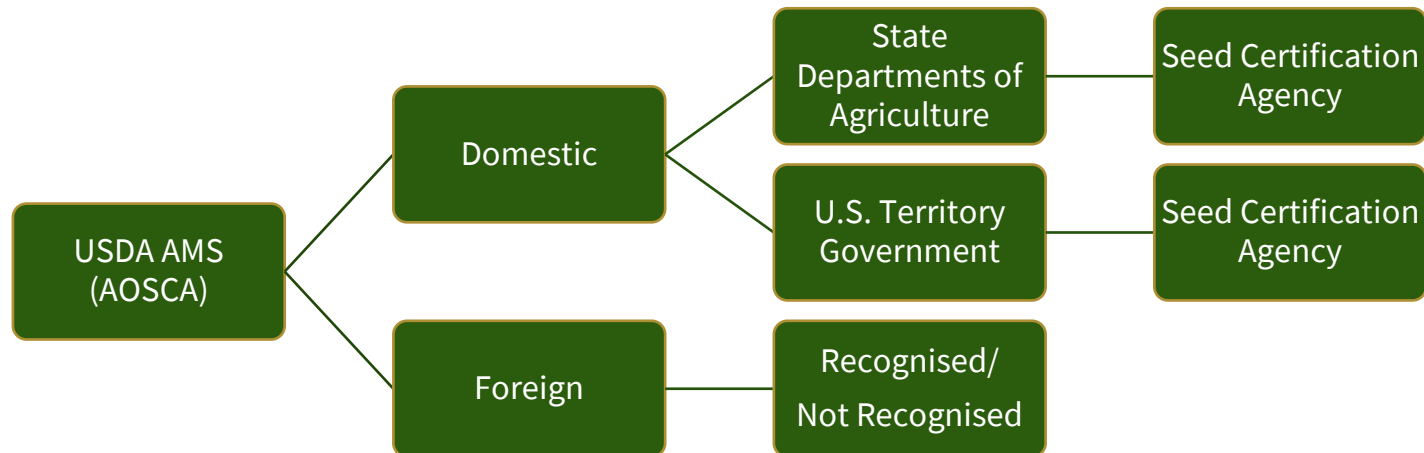
- establish the **minimum** requirements for seed certification
  - AOSCA uses the FSA Certification as a base and often adds requirements to promote high varietal purity standards

**Testing** in the United States is not specifically prescribed but required. Regulatory monitoring is based on FSA or AOSA standardized methods.



# Seed Certification the United States

Seed certification in the United States falls under the authority of the USDA AMS. The system is based on a strong public-private partnership and works like a certification cooperative.





# Seed Certification the United States

AOSCA– Founded in 1919, AOSCA has played a key role in promoting seed certification in the United States and for decades has partnered with USDA to ensure high-quality American seed.

- Monitors SCA's for compliance to Federal laws
- Develops high standards for seed quality
- 4.3 million acres of certified seed annually
- Oversees the National Variety Review boards

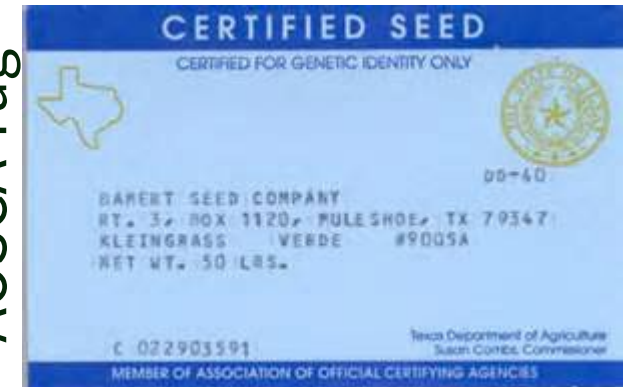




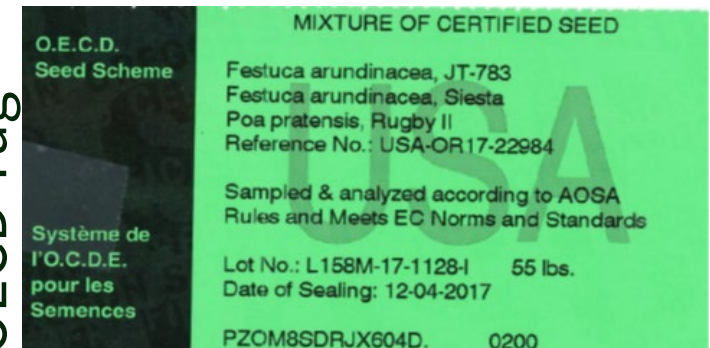
# United States Vs. OECD Tags

U.S. SEED CLASSES	OECD SEED CLASSES
Breeder Seed	Pre-Basic (w/ violet stripe)
Foundation Seed	Basic Seed
Registered Seed	1 <sup>st</sup> Generation Certified
Certified Seed	
---	2 <sup>nd</sup> Generation Certified
---	Not finally Certified
---	Mixtures of Certified Seed

AOSCA Tag



OECD Tag





# Seed Testing in the U.S. OECD Seed Schemes

## U.S. OECD Seed Schemes:

- **Standards:** Testing *must* be conducted by a USDA Accredited Seed Laboratory (ASL), an ISTA Accredited Laboratory, or an Official State Laboratory testing following:
  - Federal Seed Act regulations,
  - AOSA rules, or
  - ISTA rules
- **Common Tests:** Purity analyses, Germination testing, and Noxious weed seed exams.



# Seed Testing in U.S. Seed Certification

## Domestic System:

- **Standards:** Testing must follow the Federal Seed Act regulations or the AOSA Rules for testing seed to ensure compliance
- **Common Tests:** Purity analyses, Germination testing, and Noxious weed seed exams.
  - **NOTE:** *Certified or not, seed testing is required for purity, germination, and noxious/other seed determinations*



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**Any questions?**