

Idaho Alfalfa Certification Standards (rev. 12.2025)

Land Requirements:

- A. Breeder seed for the production of foundation seed shall be planted on land on which no alfalfa was grown or planted during the four (4) years prior to the one in which the present stand was planted.
- B. Foundation seed for the production of registered seed shall be planted on land on which no alfalfa was grown or planted during the three (3) years prior to the one in which the present stand was planted.
- C. Breeder, foundation, or registered seed for the production of certified seed shall be planted on land on which no alfalfa was grown or planted during the year prior to the one in which the present stand was planted.

This requirement is lengthened to three (3) years for non-GMO alfalfa being planted after GMO alfalfa production. A pre-plant inspection is required.

- D. For foundation, registered and certified the land must be free from volunteer plants as determined by field inspection at time seeding is established.
- E. At least two (2) years must elapse between destruction of varieties of dissimilar adaptation (varieties which differ by four (4) or more points on a dormancy rating scale as reported by the National Alfalfa Variety Review Board) and establishment of a new stand for the production of seed for certification.
- F. The number of generations an alfalfa variety may be multiplied shall be limited to generations specified by the originating breeder or owner.

Isolation Requirements:

A field producing foundation, registered or certified seed must have the minimum isolation distance from fields of any other variety or fields of the same variety that do not meet the varietal purity requirements for certification as given in the following table:

CLASSES	Fields of less than 5 Acres	Fields of more than 5 Acres
Foundation	900 feet	600 feet
Registered	450 feet	300 feet
Certified	330 feet	165 feet
Different generation of same variety	10 feet	10 feet
GMO Fields from Non-GMO	900 feet	900 feet

3. For Certified Class Only.

When the isolation zone (which is calculated by multiplying the length of the common border with other varieties of alfalfa by the average width of the certified field falling within 165 feet isolation distance requirement) is less than 10% for the entire field, no isolation is required.

This calculation does not apply to GMO fields adjacent to conventional fields.

4. Volunteer Plants.

Volunteer plants may be cause for rejection or reclassification of a seed field.

5. Fields producing foundation class seed will be rejected if more than two flowering plants, per acre of production, of the same species are found within the isolation zone.

Field Standards:

Factor	Maximum permitted in each class		
	Foundation	Registered	Certified
Red Clover	1/1000	1/1000	1/200
Sweet Clover-Plants	None ¹	10/acre	10/acre
Other varieties*	None	None	1.00%

*Other varieties shall be considered to include off-type plants and plants that can be differentiated from the variety that is being inspected.

¹None tolerance means none found during the normal inspection procedures.

Seed Standards:

Factor	Standards for each class		
	Foundation White Tag	Registered Purple Tag	Certified Blue Tag
Pure Seed (Min.)	99.0%	99.0%	99.0%
Other Crops (Max.)	.1%	.1%	.25%
Sweet Clover (Max.)	None	45/lb	90/lb
Inert Matter (Max.)	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%
Weed Seed (Max.)	.1%	.2%	.25%
Noxious Weeds*	None ²	None	None
Objectionable Weeds (Max.) ¹	None	None	18/lb
Total Germination (Min.)	80.0%	80.0%	85.0%

*Noxious Weeds, See Prohibited Noxious Weed List.

¹Blue Flowering Lettuce, Buckhorn, Halogeton, Medusa Head Rye, Perennial Ragweed, Povertyweed, Wild Oats.

²None tolerance means none found during the normal inspection procedures.