



Selling Agricultural Seed in Iowa Including Selling Direct From the Farm Permit & Labeling Requirements

The purpose of this document is to provide farmers and commercial entities direction on how to sell agricultural seed in Iowa. This is a summary of the Iowa Seed Law. For more information on specifics on vegetable, turf or lawn seed; hybrid corn; noxious weed seed content; foundation or registered/certified seed; commercial sale of seed; seed permits; and seed bonds, please contact the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship (IDALS) Entomology Bureau.

Q. Does the seller need to obtain a seed permit?

A. A person must first obtain a seed permit from IDALS to engage in business before selling, distributing, advertising, soliciting for orders, offering or exposing for sale, agricultural or vegetable seed.

EXCEPTIONS –

(a) A seed permit is not required of persons selling seeds which have been packed and distributed by a person holding and having in force a permit.

(b) A seed permit is not required of persons selling or advertising seed of their own production, provided that the seed is stored or delivered to a purchaser only on or from the farm or premises where grown.

Q. If I need a seed permit, how much does it cost?

A. A first-year seed permit is \$10. In future years the permit fee is a sliding scale based on gross annual sale of seed in Iowa the previous year.

Q. What does the Iowa Seed Law require for seed to be sold from the farm or by a permitted entity?

A. The seed must be labeled on the basis of tests performed by the Iowa State University Seed Laboratory or a commercial seed laboratory personally supervised by a registered seed technologist. The required tests are purity analysis, noxious weed examination, and germination.

Q. Any specific prohibitions a farmer should be aware of before selling seed from the farm?

A. Agricultural seed should not contain more than one and one-half percent by weight of weed seed. Seed cannot be labeled as a variety that is a protected variety under the Plant Variety Protection Act unless properly certified by the Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA). The word 'trace' cannot be used as a substitute for any statement that is required. The word 'type' cannot be used in labeling in connection with the name of an agricultural seed variety.

Q. What needs to be on the seed label?

A. All agricultural and vegetable seed sold, offered for sale or transported within Iowa shall be labeled with the following -

- (1) The name of the kind, or kind and variety, of each agricultural seed present in excess of five percent, and the percentage by weight. If "variety not stated" is used on the label, the kind of seed must still be listed. Seed shall not be labeled or advertised under a trademark or brand name in a manner that may create the impression that the trademark or brand name is a variety name.

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- (2) Lot number or other lot identification
- (3) State of origin of alfalfa and red clover.
- (4) Percentage by weight of all weed seed.
- (5) The name and weight of occurrence per unit weight of each kind of secondary noxious weed seed present.
- (6) Percentage by weight of agricultural seed which may be designated as "other crop seed" other than those required to be named on the label.
- (7) Percentage by weight of inert matter.
- (8) For each named agricultural seed, the label must state -
 - a. Percentage of germination, exclusive of hard seed.
 - b. Percentage of hard seed, if present.
 - c. The calendar month and year the test was completed.
- (9) Name and address of the person/company who labeled the seed.
- (10) If the seed is treated, inoculated, or coated, contact IDALS for more labeling details.

The test to determine the germination must have been completed within nine months, excluding the month of the tests, prior to sale, transporting, or advertising for sale.

Contacts

- For questions about labeling requirements or State Law -
Robin Pruisner, Iowa Seed Control Official
Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship – Seed Control Official
(515) 725-1470
Robin.Pruisner@IowaAgriculture.gov
- For questions on seed testing -
Iowa State University Seed Testing Laboratory
(515) 294-6826
seedlab@iastate.edu
- For questions on registered seed, approved conditioners, native seed, or quality assurance -
Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA)
(515) 294-6921
iowacrop@iastate.edu

Required Information on Minnesota Seed Tags

Seed Species & Variety or Brand:

Tag must state the species, a specific variety or brand, or state "Variety Not Stated". See below for details.

Full Purity Analysis:

Tag must include Seed Purity, Other Crop, Inert, and Weed. Percentages must total 100%. Any coatings may be listed separately or included as part of inert. All Noxious Weeds must be listed by species and seeds/lb.

Viking 372HD Brand Alfalfa Variety Not Stated	Lot: 12345	Lot Number
Purity: 65.50%	Total Germ.: 94%	Total Germination: Must list separate germ, hard seed, and dormant seed percentages when applicable.
Coating Material: 34.00%	Germ.: 88%	
Other Crop: 0.15%	Hard Seed: 6%	
Inert: 0.20%	Test Date: 02/18	Current Test Date: Expirations vary by state. MN is 12 months.
Weed: 0.15%	Grown: MT	Origin of Seed: State or Country
Noxious Weed: None	Net Wt.: 50 lbs	Net Weight
Coated with Apex Green Hydroloc (OMRI Listed)	Exp: 1/31/2020	Seed Treatments (if any)
Albert Lea Seed, 1414 W. Main St.,	Albert Lea, MN 56007	Guarantor's Name and Address

Labeling of Varieties:

The variety name **MUST** be listed on on the seed tag unless:

- > The variety name is not known or does not exist for a nonhybrid seed.
- > The variety name is known for nonhybrid biennial or perennial seed but the owner of the variety has granted written permission to omit it from the label.
- > The seed being offered is a blend.
- > The components are not sold by brand names for lawn and turf seed sold in mixtures.
- > A variety being marketed as a brand AND the brand has been registered with the MDA. The brand name must be clearly identified as a brand so that it cannot be confused as a variety name.

If one of these conditions is applicable, then the words " **VARIETY NOT STATED** " are used in place of the variety name.

Labeling of Brands:

- > If a brand is registered with the state, the tag **MUST** list a variety or state "Variety Not Stated".
- > If a brand is **NOT** registered with the state, the tag **MUST** list the variety.

See also: Labeling Agricultural Seed in Minnesota: www.mda.state.mn.us/licensing/licensetypes/~media/Files/licensing/seed/seed-labeltagseed.pdf

“Starting a Cover Crop Seed Business”

RESOURCES

Mac Ehrhardt and Dean Sponheim

January 18, 2019

Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference, 2019

- I. “Selling Agricultural Seed in Iowa” Iowa Dept. of Ag
 - a. <https://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Entomology/pdf/2014/SellingFarm112014.pdf>
- II. How to get a permit to sell seed: “Application for Agricultural/Vegetable Seed Permit” Iowa Dept. of Ag
 - a. <https://www.iowaagriculture.gov/Entomology/pdf/2018/Application%20for%20Seed%20Permit.pdf>
- III. What varieties have Plant Variety Protection? USDA Agricultural Research Service. Plant Variety Protection Office “Status of Certification”
 - a. PVP Website: <https://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/npgs/pvp/pvplist.pl>
- IV. Some Approved Seed Labs:

Iowa State University Seed Laboratory

109 Seed Science Center, 2115 Osborn Drive, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011

Phone: (515) 294-6826

Email: seedlab@iastate.edu Homepage: www.seedlab.iastate.edu

Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) Seed Laboratory

1900 Hendon Ave, Saint Paul, MN 55108

Phone: (800) 510-6242

Email: mncia@mncia.org

Homepage: www.mncia.org

Eurofins Biodiagnostics

507 Highland Drive, River Falls, WI 54022

Phone: (715) 426-0246

Email: info@eurofinsus.com

Homepage: www.eurofinsus.com/biodiagnostics

SGS North America, Inc.

1405 32nd Ave., Brookings, SD 57006

Phone: (605) 692-7611

Email: www.sgs.com/en/contact-modal?id=913d5e69c0b34b69bffa79bf70e9b8d6

Homepage: www.sgs.com/en/agriculture-food/seed-and-crop/seed-services/seed-testing

Illinois Seed Laboratory and Trait Testing Services

3105 Research Road, Champaign, IL 61822

Phone: (888) 455-3105

Email: www.ilcrop.com/corporate-overview/directory

Homepage: <https://www.ilcrop.com/labservices/seed-services>