

INTRODUCTION

Seed certification is a systematic approach for the maintenance of varietal purity and identity of seed crops through standards administered by an official certifying agency.

In Indiana, the certification of agronomic crops has been delegated to the Indiana Crop Improvement Association by the Director of the Purdue University Agricultural Research Programs under the State Law governing seed certification. Rules concerning certification are approved by the Director of the Agricultural Research Programs and are applied by the Indiana Crop Improvement Association.

The objectives in certifying seeds are:

1. To assure the purchaser that Certified Seed is true to variety.
2. To recognize the seedsman for the production of seed true to variety.
3. To provide unbiased inspection service that may check the authenticity of seed stocks and the accuracy and completeness of the technical operations of seed production.
4. To assist in developing effective and reliable methods of increase and distribution of new, improved crop varieties.

Each person or company who certifies seed in Indiana must follow the policies and procedures that have been established by the Indiana Crop Improvement Association. The producer of Certified Seed must be willing to have his fields inspected by an inspector from the certification office and to have his harvested seed sampled and checked in the Crop Improvement laboratories. If the seed has been produced in such a manner that it does meet all of the standards that have been established for Certified Seed, official tags are issued to the grower in order that they may be attached to each bag of seed that he sells.

As new, improved and superior varieties are released by plant breeders, certification can assist in the task of multiplying them to such quantities that they will be readily available to all Indiana farmers. By following this method of multiplication, every farmer in Indiana very rapidly has an opportunity to use these new varieties on his own farm. Thereby his production is increased and his financial welfare is bettered.

The Indiana Crop Improvement Association headquarters is located at 7700 Stockwell Road, Lafayette, IN. It is a non-profit, unbiased, self-supported organization rendering valuable service to the farmers of the state.