

SAMPLING PROCEDURES FOR THE INSPECTION OF SEED

All samples for certified seed inspection must be taken in accordance with the sampling procedures prescribed in the current regulations under the Federal Seed Act.

I. General Procedures

- A. To secure a representative sample, equal portions must be taken from evenly-distributed parts of the quantity of seed to be sampled. Access must be had to all parts of that quantity.
- B. For free-flowing seed in bags or bulk, a probe or trier long enough to sample all portions of the bag or bulk must be used.
- C. Non-free-flowing seed, such as chaffy grass seed, which is difficult to sample with a probe or trier, must be sampled by thrusting the hand into the bulk and withdrawing representative portions.
- D. As the seed is sampled, each portion must be examined. If there appears to be a lack of uniformity, the portions must not be combined, but must be retained separately for laboratory analysis. If the portions appear uniform, they may be combined to form a composite sample.
- E. Composite samples must be obtained to determine the quality of a lot of seed, such as the percentages of pure seed, other crop seed, weed seed, inert matter, noxious weed seed, germination, varietal purity, freedom from disease and effectiveness of seed treatment.

II. Sampling Equipment

For sampling seed in bags, a trier long enough to reach all areas in the bag should be used. The trier must be designed so that it will remove an equal volume of seed from each part of the bag through which the trier travels. Unless the trier has partitions in the seed chamber it must be inserted into the bags horizontally. Non-free-flowing seeds that are difficult to sample with a trier should be sampled by thrusting the hand into the seed and removing representative portions. When a sample is taken with the hand, insert the hand flat and with the fingers together. Keep the fingers together as the hand is closed and withdrawn. Because of possible segregation, hand samples should be taken from various locations in bags or in bulk.

III. Obtaining a "Representative Sample"

- A. Seed in bags
 1. When more than one core is drawn from a bag, follow different paths. When more than one handful is taken from a bag, take them from well-separated points.
 2. For lots of one to six bags, sample each bag and take a total of at least five cores of handfuls.
 3. For lots of more than six bags, sample five bags plus at least 10 percent of the number of bags in the lot. Round numbers with decimals to the nearest whole number. Regardless of the lot size, it is not necessary to sample more than 30 bags. For example:

No. bags in lots	7	10	23	50	100	200	300	400
No. bags to sample	6	6	7	10	15	25	30	30
 4. Bulk seed - To obtain a composite sample, take at least as many cores or handfuls as if the same quantity of seed were in bags of an ordinary size. Take the cores or handfuls from well-distributed points throughout the bulk.
 5. Seed in small containers - Seed in small containers must be sampled by taking entire unopened containers in sufficient number to supply a minimum size sample as required by the Montana Seed Growers Association (see page 7). The contents of a single container or the combined contents of multiple containers of the same lot will be considered representative of the entire lot of seed sampled.