

How to Read a Seed Label - What has to be on a Seed Label

The Federal Seed Act and Indiana State Law requires that each seed lot offered for sale must be truthfully labeled. In Indiana, this is regulated by the Office of Indiana State Chemist. The Indiana State Seed Lab is an Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) Official Laboratory. The format of seed labels will vary, but labels will have some semblance of the following as required by the Federal Seed Act.

Key to diagram:

1. Grass Seed Product Name:

In many cases, a brand name and species name are listed together to help the consumer distinguish from one product to another.

2. Pure Seed: The percentage by weight of seed that is in the bag.

3. Other Crop Seed: The percentage by weight other than the pure grass species or varieties labeled, but not considered as weed seeds. If "other crop seed" is over 5% of the total weight, they must be claimed on the label.

4. Weed Seed: The percentage by weight of weed seeds in this lot. Weeds don't have to be individually listed unless they are noxious.

5. Inert Matter: The percentage by weight of material that will not grow.

6. Noxious Weeds: If the product contains seeds that are considered noxious weeds as defined by Indiana, these would be listed on the tag. There are two different kinds of "noxious" weeds – prohibited and restricted. Prohibited noxious weeds are not allowed in any seed for sale, restricted noxious weeds can be in the seed up to 0.25% by weight.

7. Address: The address of the company providing the seed.

8. Origin: State in which the seed was grown.

9. Lot Number: Each lot of seed is uniquely numbered. This number appears on the tag/label on the seed lab documents, purchase orders, etc so that it can be traced back to its origin.

10. Test Date: Actual month and year this lot of seed was tested for germination in a lab.

11. Germination: The percentage of pure seed that will germinate based on a lab test.

12. Treatment: If the seed is treated or coated with a fertilizer, chemical, microbial, bacteria or clay/polymer coating it will be listed on the seed label. When done, this is typically to enhance germination or protect the seed from insect or disease damage.

Wear Green Blend			
Pure Seed		Origin	Germination
32.70%	Jaguar 4G Tall Fescue	ORE	85.00%
32.42%	Sidewinder Tall Fescue	ORE	85.00%
32.15%	Cochise IV Tall Fescue	ORE	85.00%
0.04%	Other Crop Seed		
0.01%	Weed Seed		
2.56%	Inert matter		
0.00%	Apron Treatment		
0.00%	Blue Colorant		
0.23%	Crop Seed		
Noxious Weed Seed: None claimed		Lot #: WGB-123485	Test Date: April 2017
The Robison Companies 175 S. University Street West Lafayette, IN 47907-2063 Net Weight: 25 Pounds (11.34 Kg)			