MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
www.mda.state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
625 Robert St. N., St. Paul, MN 55155-2538

Seed Unit, Plant Protection Division, Ph: 651-201-6309, Fx: 651-201-6108

Labeling Native Seeds in Minnesota

Seed offered for sale in containers or in bulk for sowing purposes in Minnesota must have attached a seed label containing the information required by the Minnesota Seed Law (MN Stat., section 21.82). Proper labeling is the responsibility of the initial labeler, that is, the first person or firm to label the seed lot for sale in Minnesota, regardless of where the firm is located. Initial labelers are required to hold a current seed permit.

NATIVE GRASS AND FORB SEED LABELS

In Minnesota, native grass seeds are considered agricultural seed. Wildflowers (forbs) are also considered agricultural seed unless packaged for homeowner use. The example below shows the label information required for seed of a single kind. The layout may be different as long as the required information is clear.

KIND: ***Switchgrass***	VARIETY: ***Laura***	LOT NUMBER: ***1890***	
PURE SEED: ***90*** %	WEED SEED: *(IF PRESENT)* ***0.50*** %	OTHER CROP: ***6.5*** %	INERT MATTER: ***3.0*** %
GERMINATION: ***70*** %	HARD *(DORMANT)* SEED: *(IF PRESENT)* ***N/A*** %	TOTAL: GERMINATION PLUS HARD *(DORMANT)* SEED *(OPTIONAL)* ***N/A*** %	
NOXIOUS WEED SEEDS: *(NAME OF EACH PRESENT)* ***Giant foxtail***		NUMBER PER POUND: ***10***	
ORIGIN: *(STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY)* ***Minnesota***	GERM. TEST DATE: *(MONTH AND YEAR)* ***1/07***	SELL BY DATE *(OPTIONAL)*: *(MONTH AND YEAR)* ***04/08***	
LABELER'S NAME: ***Ingalls Seed*** LABELER'S MAILING ADDRESS: ***P.O. Box 10, Prairietown, MN 55555***			

Note: *The "germination test date" may not be more than fifteen months old excluding the month of test for native grass and forb seeds when used as agricultural seed. A "sell by" date may be listed in addition to or in lieu of the test date and denote the end of the 15 month test date period. "Variety Not Stated" may be used if there is no variety name, the variety is unknown, or the lot is a blend of varieties.*

REQUIRED RECORDS RETENTION

The initial labeler is required to retain complete records of each of seed lot sold in this state for three years.

- ✓ Invoices that include the lot number, name of the kind and variety, amount of seed being sold, date of sale, and the name and address of buyer and seller.
- ✓ A copy of the seed label and the certification documents when applicable.
- ✓ The test information from which the labeling information was derived.
- ✓ A representative file sample for each seed lot for one year. Samples should be stored to maintain the purity and quality of the sample..

Persons who fail to comply with the requirements of the Minnesota Seed Law are subject to administrative, civil, and criminal penalties.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, an alternative form of communication is available upon request. TTY: 1-800-627-3529. MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

MIXTURES

Native grasses and wildflowers are frequently sold as mixtures. If this is the case, the basic label must be modified so that:

- ✓ The purity, germination, hard (dormant) seed percentages and origin of each kind occurring in excess of 5% of the total weight are listed individually.
- ✓ The pure seed percentage is also listed individually for each component by as a percent of the whole.
- ✓ The mixed product must be identified as a mixture.

MIXTURE NAME: ***Little House Prairie Mixture***					LOT NUMBER: ***W123-07***	
KIND:	VARIETY:	ORIGIN:	PURE SEED (%):	GERMINATION (%):	HARD (DORMANT) SEED *(%)*:	TOTAL GERMINATION (GERM + HARD (DORMANT) SEED *(%)*:
Big Bluestem	***Charles***	***SD***	***30***	***20***	***45***	***65***
Little Bluestem	***Edward***	***TX***	***30***	***45***	***40***	***85***
Switchgrass	***Laura***	***MN***	***30***	***40***	***50***	***90***
WEED SEED: ***0.5 %***		OTHER CROP: ***5.0 %***			INERT MATTER: ***4.5 %***	
NOXIOUS WEED SEEDS: *(NAME OF EACH PRESENT)* ***None***					NUMBER PER POUND: ***0***	
GERM. TEST DATE: *(MONTH/YEAR)* ***01/07***				SELL BY DATE *(OPTIONAL)*: *(MONTH/YEAR)* ***04/08***		
LABELER'S NAME: ***Ingalls Seed***				LABELER'S MAILING ADDRESS: ***P.O. Box 10, Prairietown, MN 55555***		

Seed which has had an application of a substance such as a pesticide, inoculant or fertilizer must be identified as "Treated". The treatment substance must be identified, along with the words "DO NOT USE FOR FOOD, FEED OR OIL PURPOSES" and the appropriate signal word and symbol.

NOXIOUS WEED SEED REQUIREMENTS

Prohibited noxious weed seeds - The following species are not allowed in any seed offered for sale in the state.

Canada thistle	Musk thistle
Field bindweed	Perennial peppergrass
Plumeless thistle	Leafy spurge
Perennial sowthistle	Russian knapweed
Hemp	Bull thistle

Restricted noxious weed seeds - The following species are allowed in seed offered for sale in the state but only up to the maximum total rate of twenty-five (25) per pound. If present in lesser amounts, the name and number per pound for each must be listed on the label under the heading "Noxious Weed Seeds."

Buckhorn plantain	Dodder
Frenchweed	Eastern black nightshade
Horse nettle	Wild mustard
Wild radish	Hoary alyssum
Quackgrass	Giant foxtail

Counties may further restrict use of seed containing the seeds of noxious weeds that have been petitioned to the county prohibited noxious weed list.

SEED PERMIT CATEGORIES

- **Category A:** Initial labelers of agricultural seed who sell 50,000 or less pounds of seed in Minnesota annually. Permit is valid for the current calendar year and is renewable.
- **Category B:** Initial labelers of vegetable, flower, and wildflower seed sold for use in home gardens and household plantings must have a yearly permit for a fee based on gross sales in the state.
- **Category C:** Initial labelers of agricultural seed who sell more than 50,000 pounds of seed in Minnesota annually. This is a permanent permit. Fee is based on kind and amount of seed sold. Permit holders report sales semi-annually.

NATIVE SEED CERTIFICATION IN MN

- ✓ Minnesota Statutes 21.901 gives the commissioner of agriculture the authority to designate the official state seed certifying agency.
- ✓ The Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) was designated as the official certifying agency in the early 1900's and continues in that role today.
- ✓ Germplasm types are recognized as Tested Class, Selected Class, and Source Identified Class

For more information e-mail: Charles.Dale@state.mn.us or Stephen.Malone@state.mn.us

For copies of forms, go to "SEED" at: www.mda.state.mn.us/licensing/grainseed/fsmsrp.htm