

HOW TO READ A LABEL ON A BAG OF HEMP SEED

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ASTA SEED CO.

PRODUCT NAME

the brand name and/or species name, so the consumer knows what they are getting

LOT/BATCH NUMBER

a unique number so that the seed can be traced to its origin

PURE SEED

percentage by weight of the desired seed(s) based on the entire contents of the bag

GERMINATION

the percentage of seed in the bag that is expected to grow (based on a lab test)

OTHER CROP SEED

percentage by weight of seeds not considered weeds. If the amount is over 5% (generally) then those species are considered "pure seed" and are to be listed by name. In some cases those species present at 5% or less may also be listed as "pure seed" if so desired by the seller

TEST DATE

month and date that this lot was tested. The date of the standard germination test must be listed, even if it is different from the dates of other tests done

TREATMENT

coatings generally used to enhance germination, protect the seed, or assist in growth

WEED SEED

the percentage by weight of weed seeds unless they are considered restricted noxious weed seeds by law where the seed will be sold. If they are restricted noxious weed seeds, then they must be listed individually by name and are limited to the amount in the state law (usually around 0.25%). (NOTE: Prohibited noxious weed seeds are not allowed at all.)

ORIGIN

location where the seed was grown

COMPANY NAME, ADDRESS

the contact information for the company providing the seed

INERT MATTER

the percentage by weight of whatever is in the package that doesn't grow (i.e. broken seed that are half or less what was originally there, seed coats, insects, etc.)

OTHER ITEMS

any other items deemed necessary by the state, as this list is not all-inclusive

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*Note: This is a representation for educational purposes. ASTA does not sell seed.

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Seed labels ensure you are buying what you expect, and therefore assist in the production of a viable and profitable crop. The most important step in hemp production is to study the label before you buy and plant. All it takes is a moment to ensure your hemp crop is successful.

The information on a seed label should be backed up by a test from a seed lab. In the United States, Registered Seed Technologists (RST) examine the seed using standards set by the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA). These RST's must show evidence of continuing education and proficiency testing to continue their certification. It is worth noting that growing environments vary in soil type, fertility, fungal & insect population, environmental conditions, etc. Thus, the germination percentage may or may not match field emergence.

When seeking hemp seed, the term "Certified Seed" may be used. Some states allow only seed certified according to AOSCA Standards in the production of hemp crops. Obviously, the purpose for the final product is a major consideration when buying hemp seed, since hemp can be grown for oil, fiber, food, or feed. That's where using certified seed can assist. Certification will ensure varietal purity. However, it is important to realize that certification will not verify levels of CBD or THC. In fact, there is not a seed test to determine these levels. The only way to make that determination is through a grow-out of the seed.

A bag of certified seed will have an additional tag, also known as a "blue tag." That tag denotes that it has been certified for genetic purity and varietal identity. Seed certification standards are established by the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) and administered at the local level by seed certifying agencies. The end-goal is to enable seed companies to produce and market genetically pure seed. Requirements for producing certified seed include special land requirements, planting eligible stock, field inspections, proper seed labeling and meeting standards based on complete lab analysis. By purchasing certified seed, you are assured of coordinated, professional and unbiased field inspections and laboratory testing. Seed buyers have assurance that the designated seed has met purity standards related to a known description across seed lots and years of production.

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For more information, contact:

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