

## Germination

### Will this seed establish a healthy crop?

The germination percentage is the percentage of seeds that germinates to produce normal seedlings. Determining normal seedlings requires skill and a controlled environment. A laboratory test is essential. Depending upon the storage conditions, the germination test results should remain valid for up to 12 months from the date of testing.

## Disease

### Does the seed carry any disease?

Seed of some species, particularly pulses, may carry diseases into the resulting crop. Results of disease tests may also be found on the Statement of Seed Analysis.

## NATIONAL CODE OF PRACTICE

### Labeling and Marketing of Seed for Sowing

This Code aims to ensure consumers are provided with consistent and accurate information so they can make informed decisions about the suitability of seed for sowing. This Code applies throughout Australia.

The Code was developed by the seed industry and sets out the:

- information required on the label, and
- acceptable conduct for marketing and dealing with claims.

Copies of the Code are available on the internet from SIAA's home Internet page [www.sia.asn.au](http://www.sia.asn.au)

*Australian Seed Committee  
Grains Council of Australia  
Seed Industry Association of Australia*

# Smart Seed buying



*You cannot accurately assess seed quality just by looking at it. Seed may appear clean and healthy, but could contain weed seeds and have low germination. Most seed of the same species looks identical, so you cannot be sure of the variety you are purchasing – unless it is certified or quality assured seed. Always ask for the Statement of Seed Analysis for any seed before you buy.*



NSW Agriculture

## IMPORTANCE OF GOOD QUALITY SEED

Seed is the most important input into any crop or pasture that you sow. The quality of the seed you buy must be assessed carefully to ensure that you are getting value for money, and not introducing any weeds with the seed.

## WHAT MAKES GOOD QUALITY SEED?

### Varietal purity

Is the seed the variety you want?

After carefully deciding what to grow, you want to be certain that the seed you buy is that variety. Buy Certified Seed, or seed produced under a reputable quality assurance scheme, to ensure varietal purity.

### Physical purity

Does it contain any undesirable weed seeds?

Seed may have been produced in another district or State. It may also contain weeds not present on your farm. Weeds prohibited in one State may not be prohibited in another. Weed details are usually not displayed on the label, but weed seeds found in the sample are listed in the

### • Statement of Seed Analysis

Reputable seed suppliers will give you a copy of the Statement of Seed Analysis if you ask. But, seed analysis statements are only as reliable as the sample provided. Samples of certified seed, and seed from reputable quality assurance programs, are representative of the seed lot on sale.

Be certain that the seed lot, or seed line number, quoted on the statement matches the brand on the bag.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR STATEMENT OF SEED ANALYSIS

### Cultivar

Cannot be assessed by seed analysis. Purchase Certified Seed or seed produced under a reputable Quality Assurance scheme to ensure seed is the correct cultivar

### Line Number


Unique identifying code used to match seed test results with the seed lot. Branded on all bags of seed and included on all sales documents

### Pure Seeds

Percent of seed of the nominated species i.e. 99.1% subterranean clover

### Abnormal Seedlings

Seed that germinates but is damaged in some way. Unlikely to produce healthy plants.

Statement of Seed Analysis								
Certificate of Analysis Number: 123456 <small>(Insert relevant abbreviation or number)</small>								
Common Name: Subterranean Clover			Line Number: AUS/N66/1/742					
Cultivar: Junce			Other ID: East 42					
Species: Trifolium subterraneum			Lab Number: 78910					
Number of Bags: 400			Issue Date: 15/05/2001					
Weight of Lot: 10,000 kg								
Purity - % weight			GERMINATION - % Number					
Pure Seeds	Inert Matter	Other Seeds	Number of Days of Test	Normal Seedlings First Count	Hard Seed	Fresh Un-germinated seed	Abnormal Seedlings	Dead Seeds
99.1	3.6	0.3	10	66	10	0	14	4
Other Seeds in 150.0 grams								
Format: Common name Botanical Name Number								
Red Clover Trifolium pratense 34								
Millet Echinochloa sp. 2								
Wireweed Polygonum aviculare 1								
Inert Matter: Broken Seed, Dirt, Decontaminated Seed								
These analysis results relate only to the sample as received by the Laboratory Sample Details as stated by the Applicant								
 OFFICER IN CHARGE								

### Inert Matter

Amount of non-seed material or broken seed particles. May include fungal material such as ergot and scleroties

### Other Seeds

Amount of other seed present. Check this carefully for any undesirable weeds.

### Normal Seedlings

This is the germination percentage. Generally valid for up to 12 months from the date of testing.

### Hard Seed

Seed that remains hard at the end of the test period.