

Sampling, Packaging & Labeling Suggestions For Submitting OSIA Seed Samples

1. PROPER SAMPLING

To obtain accurate information on a seed lot, the seed should be carefully sampled several times with a probe; so that the submitted lab sample will accurately represent the seed lot's planting value. Skimming seed from the top of a grain bin or grain wagon is not a good seed producer practice. Seed that has been stored with chemicals, placed in unclean buckets or seed which may have stayed in vehicles for extended periods of time, may not be representative of the actual seed lot. If you have further questions on sampling, please contact OSIA for an extension fact sheet.

2. USING THE CORRECT SAMPLE BAG OR PACKET

- A. Use the large (8" x 13.75") sample bag for small grains, corn, soybeans, etc.
- B. Use the small (4" x 6") packet for grasses, clovers, etc.

3. FILLING OUT ALL INFORMATION ON THE FRONT OF THE SAMPLE BAG

- A. Fill in all applicable information: producer, conditioner, bill to, crop year, crop, lot number, variety and class. Clearly check all services and tests requested. Please do not request a complete test on an unclean sample.
- B. Check the "carryover" box for seed harvested prior to the current crop year. This is important since some newly harvested seed may need a prechill to break dormancy to obtain accurate results.

4. FILLING OUT ALL INFORMATION ON THE FRONT AND BACK OF THE PACKET

- A. Write the crop and variety name in the given areas. If you do not know the variety name, submit as "VNS" (Variety Not Stated).
- B. Check the "carryover" box for seed harvested prior to the current crop year. This is important since some newly harvested seed may need a prechill to break dormancy to obtain accurate results.
- C. Assign a lot number or name to the seed sample.
- D. Fill in the address where you want the test results mailed.
- E. Be sure to put a phone number, including area code, where someone may be contacted concerning the sample.
- F. Check the box(es) of the test(s) you want performed on your sample. If a noxious exam is requested on a small seed sample, please fill in the box for the type of noxious exam.

"Bulk" = All States

"State" or "States of" = Individual State(s)

5. SENDING THE CORRECT AMOUNT

Send at least a ½ lb. of seed per test requested on small grains, corn, and soybeans. For small seeds such as grasses, clovers, etc., please send at least ¼ lb. of seed.

6. PACKAGING YOUR SAMPLE(S)

To insure that your sample(s) arrives safely with the least amount of damage, place the seeds in the appropriate packet or bag. Do not overfill the sample container. Do not use staples or duct tape to close a sample container. If you are using snap and seal plastic bags, release as much trapped air as possible before sealing. Place the seed sample(s) in a sturdy mailing box and arrange some type of packing material around the sample(s). If possible, please fill out and include the OSIA packing list which can be found online at www.ohseed.org.

Desirable sample containers:

- 1. OSIA sample bags and packets (Call for free bags and packets if needed.)
- 2. Double snap & seal plastic bags (One bag placed within another bag.)
- 3. Commercial sealed foil packets for flower, vegetables, etc.

Undesirable sample containers:

- 1. Overfilled containers
- 2. Single snap and seal plastic bags
- 3. Business envelopes
- 4. Brown paper bags
- 5. Checkbook boxes
- 6. Ice cream or cottage cheese containers
- 7. Plastic food storage containers
- 8. Coffee cans

7. SHIPPING YOUR SAMPLE(S)

UPS or FedEx: Ohio Seed Improvement Assoc.
6150 Avery Road
Dublin, Ohio 43016

USPS: Ohio Seed Improvement Assoc.
P.O. Box 477
6150 Avery Road
Dublin, OH 43017-0477

Phone: (614) 889-1136