

**TURFGRASS SEED CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**  
**VEGETATIVELY PROPAGATED SEED PRODUCTION FIELDS**

**I. Application and Amplification of General Certification Standards**

The General Seed Certification Standards, as adopted by the Association are basic and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for certification of seed.

New growers, owner or designated representative, must attend a GCI A conducted training course prior to submitting an application. The GCI A Executive Director will determine date and locations. Turfgrass applications not received by May 1, with the exception of new producers, will not be accepted.

All classes of certified seed may be produced from vegetatively propagated planting stock in accordance with the procedure specified by the originator, but in such cases the standards for vegetatively propagated grasses shall apply.

When certified seed producing fields are established by vegetative reproduction, from different clones, foundation plots of each clone must be maintained and inspected to ensure genetic purity.

Application to establish pedigree must be made within one year of planting. The crop will remain under supervision of the certifying agency as long as the field is eligible for certification.

The field of each kind and variety must be identified at all times by an appropriate sign with field number and map with the field number noted.

**II. Land Requirements**

- A. The production of foundation seed or plants shall be on land that has not grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous five crop years.
- B. Certified turfgrass producers who have been members continuously for no less than five years may be exempt from pre-plant inspections if the following criteria are met:
  - Application for field inspection and membership are made prior to planting;
  - Signing of a waiver by the member or GCI A authorized turfgrass representative accepting all responsibility for electing to not have a preplant inspection performed, is submitted prior to planting;
- C. The production of the registered or certified classes shall be on land that has not grown or been seeded to the same species during the previous two crop years.
- D. A field inspection is required prior to planting. Isolation, previous crop and existing contamination shall be checked and problems corrected prior to planting.
- E. Land fumigated with approved material must lay idle for a period of not less than three weeks after fumigation (or not less than six weeks when converting to like species) and be inspected for compliance with Section II. Land Requirements, (C.) Land must receive

adequate moisture and soil temperature must be adequate to allow any live plants not eradicated by fumigation to emerge. Fields passing a preplant inspection prior to fumigation do not require a three or six week waiting period.

**III. Field Standards**

A. General

Isolation

1. A strip at least 5 feet in width from contaminating grasses and which is mowed, uncropped or planted to some crop other than the kind inspected shall constitute a field boundary.
2. Foundation plots shall be managed to allow only minimum seed head production.
3. The following isolation requirements shall be met when any other strain of the species is in bloom at the same time except that the minimum isolation for all seed classes of tetraploids shall be 15 feet from diploids of the same species.

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| Type of Repro.  | Border to be Removed *ft. | <u>**Minimum Isolation – Feet</u> |            |           |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|
|   |                           | Foundation                        | Registered | Certified |
| Cross – Pollinated  | 0                         | 900                               | 300        | 165       |
|   | 9                         | 600                               | 225        | 100       |
|   | 15                        | 450                               | 150        | 75        |
| Strains at least 80% apomictic & highly self-fertile species*** | 0                         | 60                                | 30         | 15        |
|   | 9                         | 30                                | 15         | 15        |

\* Border removal applies only to fields of 5 acres or more. Where a border is to be removed such removal shall not occur until pollination of the crop to be certified is completed.

\*\* When different classes of seed of the same variety are being grown in the same or adjacent fields, the isolation requirements may be reduced to 25% of that shown in the above tables.

\*\*\* Varieties within species with both cross-pollinated and apomictic type of reproduction will be considered highly apomictic for purposes of minimum isolation unless otherwise specified for that variety.

4. Allowed off type plants

| Maximum          | Maximum Permitted Ratio of Plants |            |           |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|-----------|
|                  | Foundation                        | Registered | Certified |
| Other Varieties* | 1 : 1000                          | 1 : 100    | 1 : 50    |

\*Other varieties shall include any other plants of the same kind not described in the variety description as provided by the breeder/originator.

5. Life of Stand:

- a. The life of the certified “blue tag” seed production field shall continue for as long as the varietal and mechanical purity for the class is maintained.
- b. A field, which is planted with more than one clone, variety or species, by seed or vegetatively propagated, will be used for certified seed production for not more than 5 years.

6. Per the definitions below, Certified Turfgrass fields may be rejected or placed in pending for failing to meet the appropriate standard.

Mature sod (sod that will be harvested before the next scheduled inspection per the time and number of inspections noted in the standard) may be rejected\* if the sod or field fails to meet the standard relating to noxious weeds, other varieties, other crop, other living plants exceeding standard or inability to make an inspection due to cultural practices. Fields rejected are to be reinspected before certified grass can be sold and will not be published in the annual turf directory/buyers guide.

Immature sod (sod that will not be harvested before the next scheduled inspection per the time and number of inspections noted in the standard, usually new fields or recently harvested fields) may be placed in pending\* if the sod or field fails to meet the standard relating to noxious weeds, other living plants exceeding standard or inability to make an inspection due to cultural practices. Fields placed in pending may be published in the annual turf directory/buyers guide.

\*For uniform fields, use GCIA field inspection sampling protocols.

7. Turf Standards

Objectionable Weeds.....None

Objectionable Weeds: Perennial sedges other than nutsedge (grass) and Dichondra spp.

#### IV. Seed Standards

Due to a large number of species eligible for certification, the seed quality standards will be established for each by the GCIA Turf Committee.

##### Seed Standards for Zoysiagrass (*zoysia japonica*)

| <u>Factor</u>          | <u>Foundation</u> | <u>Registered</u> | <u>Certified</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Pure Seed (min.)       | 90%               | 90%               | 90%              |
| Inert Matter (max.)    | 10%               | 10%               | 10%              |
| Other Crop Seed (max.) | .50%              | .50%              | .50%             |
| *Noxious Weed Seed     | None              | None              | None             |
| Weed Seed (max.)       | .30%              | .30%              | .30%             |
| **Germination (min.)   | 70%               | 70%               | 70%              |
| Other Var. (offtype)   | None              | None              | None             |

\*Bermudagrass seed will be considered a noxious weed.

\*\*Total germination will include hard and dormant seed.

The maximum lot size for Zoysia seed is 10,000 pounds.

#### V. Field Inspections (After Planting)

##### A. Prior to Inspection:

A field must be rogued and/or sprayed with an herbicide during the growing season to remove (1) other varieties\*, (2) other perennial grasses, (3) most common weeds, (4) objectionable and noxious weeds.

\*Other varieties shall include any other plants of the same kind not described in the variety description as provided by the breeder/originator.

#### INSTRUCTIONS & PROCEDURES

1. Beginning July 1, 2017, new turfgrass producers must utilize the GCIA ETCert Program.

**VEGETATIVELY PROPAGATED OR SEEDED TURFGRASS**  
**CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

**I. Application and Amplification of General Certification Standards**

- A. The General Seed Certification Standards as adopted by the Association are basic and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for certification of vegetatively propagated or seeded turfgrasses.

New growers, owner or designated representative, must attend a GCIA conducted training course prior to submitting an application. The GCIA Executive Director will determine date and locations. Turfgrass applications not received by May 1, with the exception of new producers, will not be accepted.

- B. The general standards are modified as follows:

1. Foundation Turf – shall be the increase of breeder’s sprigs or in certain cases the increase of foundation sprigs or seed.
2. Registered Turf – shall be the increase of foundation sprigs or seed. A grower of registered turf may increase the original foundation class planting to no more than 10 acres if the increase is continuous within the original field and a GCIA inspector is present at harvest and planting.
3. Certified Turf – shall be the increase of registered sprigs or seed or foundation sprigs of seed.
4. The field of each kind and variety must be identified at all times by an appropriate sign and field number and map with field number noted.

- |                             |               |                  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| C. Size of Field: Maximum – | a. Foundation | <u>ten acres</u> |
|                             | b. Registered | <u>ten acres</u> |
|                             | c. Certified  | <u>no limit</u>  |

**II. Land Requirements (Rules covering land prior to planting)**

- A. A field to be eligible for the production of foundation, registered or certified turf must have been inspected and found to be free of all perennial grasses, objectionable and noxious weeds.
- B. Certified turfgrass producers who have been members continuously for no less than five years may be exempt from preplant inspections if the following criteria are met:
- Application for field inspection and membership are made prior to planting;
  - Signing of a waiver by the member or GCIA authorized turfgrass representative accepting all responsibility for electing to not have a preplant inspection performed, is submitted prior to planting;

- The exemption does not apply to Foundation or Registered class fields or “Dwarf” turfgrass varieties;
  - Fields that previously (within 12 months) have grown the same species of grass as the species to be planted are not exempt.
- C. Land fumigated with approved material must lay idle for a period of not less than three weeks after fumigation (or not less than six weeks when converting to like species) and be inspected for compliance with Section II., A. Land must receive adequate moisture, (a minimum of  $\frac{3}{4}$ ” per week) and soil temperature (60° F at 4” soil depth) must be adequate to allow any live plants not eradicated by fumigation to emerge. Fields passing a preplant inspection prior to fumigation do not require a three or six week waiting period.
- Fumigation rate, material and process to be approved by the GCIA Turfgrass Committee appointed at the most recent Annual Membership Meeting.
- D. All foundation and registered class grass will be produced on fumigated land or inspected for an entire growing season and meet Section II., A., requirements. Certified class turf may be planted on fumigated land and must comply with Section II., A. and C., if fumigated.

### III. Field Inspections (After Planting)

#### A. Prior to Inspection:

To be in compliance with the published standards a field must be rogued and/or sprayed with a herbicide during the growing season to remove (1) other varieties\*, (2) other perennial grasses, (3) common weeds, (4) objectionable and noxious weeds.

\*Other varieties shall include any other plants of the same kind not described in the variety description as provided by the breeder/originator.

#### B. Life of Stand:

The life of the stand will continue for all classes of vegetatively propagated or seeded turfgrasses as long as the varietal and mechanical purity for the class is maintained with the following exceptions:

- Registered Tifway fields are limited to a lifespan of 5 years, excluding the year of establishment.

- Foundation Tifway fields are limited to a lifespan of 5 years, excluding the year of establishment.

- Fields of all dwarf turfgrass varieties will be limited to five years of certification, excluding the year of establishment.

- C. Time and number of inspections:
1. Foundation, Registered and Certified (three inspections required)  
Spring (April or May)  
Summer (June or July)  
Fall (September or October)
  2. Every two years an intensive field inspection will be made of the registered class.
    - a. A representative area of the field (10%) will not be harvested until seed heads appear.
- D. Per the definitions below, Certified Turfgrass fields may be rejected or placed in pending for failing to meet the appropriate standard.

Mature sod (sod that will be harvested before the next scheduled inspection per the time and number of inspections noted in the standard) may be rejected\* if the sod or field fails to meet the standard relating to noxious weeds, other varieties, other crop, other living plants exceeding standard or inability to make an inspection due to cultural practices. Fields rejected are to be reinspected before certified grass can be sold and will not be published in the annual Turfgrass Buyers Guide.

Immature sod (sod that will not be harvested before the next scheduled inspection per the time and number of inspections noted in the standard, usually new fields or recently harvested fields) may be placed in pending\* if the sod or field fails to meet the standard relating to noxious weeds, other living plants exceeding standard or inability to make an inspection due to cultural practices. Fields placed in pending may be published in the annual Turfgrass Buyers Guide.

\*For uniform fields, use GCIA field inspection sampling protocols.

#### **IV. Field Standards**

##### **A. General**

1. An inspection will be made approximately four to six weeks after the initial planting.
2. Restrictions on number of varieties per farm:

Only one variety of a kind may be grown for certified turf on a farm except with prior approval of the certifying agency.

3. Unit of Certification:

A field or portion of a field may be certified. A registered field may not be divided for certification.

4. Isolation requirements:

Planting of vegetatively propagated turfgrasses or seeded turfgrasses must be isolated from any other variety and other perennial grasses by an artificial barrier and/or strip at least 6 ft. wide to prevent mixing during the growing season and harvesting operation.

Pollen producing varieties must be isolated to prevent contamination from other species. Distance from source of contamination will be determined by the GCIA Executive Director after collaboration with a knowledgeable turfgrass breeder.

Different classes (Foundation, Registered, Certified) of the same species must be clearly delineated by bare ground, roads, drainage ditches, pivot tracks, etc. with a minimum distance of not less than 2 ft.

B. Specific Field Requirements

| Factor                      | Maximum permitted in each class |               |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | Foundation***                   | Registered*** | Certified***  |
| *Other Varieties            | None                            | None          | 1plant/A***   |
| **Other Crops               | None                            | None          | 1 plant/A**** |
| Noxious/Objectionable Weeds | None                            | None          | None          |
| *****Other Living Plants    |                                 |               |               |

- \* Other varieties shall include any other plants of the same kind not described in the variety description as provided by the breeder/originator.
- \*\* Other crops shall consist of all other kinds and varieties of perennial grasses.
- \*\*\* Other live varieties, other live crops and live noxious weeds found in excess of standards during field inspection must be eradicated. **Reinspection required and to be made not less than three weeks after rejection, cost of reinspection to be paid by producer.**
- \*\*\*\* Those live plants found by an inspector must be eradicated by grower.
- \*\*\*\*\* Other living plants – not to exceed one plant per 100 sq. ft. Over seeding with a non persistent cool season grass is acceptable and the production field may be sold as Certified if the field passed the last inspection.

C. Production fields that fail to meet the published field requirements for varietal purity for the class applied for within one growing year will be downgraded to the next lowest class if the field meets the standard of the next class or removed from certification. A field removed from certification may be re-entered into certification if it meets the requirements in Section II., Land Requirements (Rules covering land prior to planting).

D. Turf Standards

Objectionable Weeds.....None  
 Objectionable Weeds: Perennial sedges other than nutsedge (grass) and Dichondra spp.

Each certified turfgrass certificate must be signed by an authorized representative. The turfgrass producer must notify the GCIA office in writing or in the space provided on the GCIA Turfgrass Application the name of the person(s) authorized to sign certificates.



**V. Responsibilities of Authorized Representative of the Grower**

- A. The Authorized Representative is responsible for:
1. Making certain that all grass represented on the certificate was inspected and accepted for certification.
  2. Making certain the certificates contain all the required information and is correct (i.e., kind, variety, quantity, billing invoice, field #, harvest date and grower information).
  3. Making sure that grass represented by the certificate continues to meet the appropriate GCIA Turfgrass Standards after the GCIA inspection.
  4. Making sure the certificate accompanies each shipment of grass.
  5. Mailing the appropriate certificate copy to the GCIA office weekly.
  6. Preventing non-certified grass from being sold as certified grass.
  7. Making certain that those records required in the GCIA Turfgrass Standards are maintained.
- B. Training of Authorized Representative

Attendance at a training session is required prior to signing certificates. All authorized representatives must attend training not less than every four years.

**INSTRUCTIONS & PROCEDURES**

1. All planting, mowing, harvesting and loading equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to entering the field.
2. An official numbered certificate will accompany each shipment of certified sprigs, sod or plugs.
3. A complete record on the amount of certified turf sales will be maintained and made available to the official certifying agency. The record will include (a) class of certified turf sold (Foundation, Registered or Certified), (b) kind and variety, (c) field number, (d) date of harvest and (e) amount of turf shipped (square feet, cubic feet, bushels, etc.).
5. Beginning July 1, 2017, new turfgrass producers must utilize the GCIA ETCert Program.

**VEGETATIVELY PROPAGATED PASPALUM TURFGRASS**  
**CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

**I. Application and Amplification of General Certification Standards**

- A. The General Seed Certification Standards as adopted by the Association are basic and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for certification of vegetatively propagated turfgrasses.

New growers, owner or designated representative, must attend a GCIA conducted training course prior to submitting an application. The GCIA Executive Director will determine date and locations. Turfgrass applications not received by May 1, with the exception of new producers, will not be accepted.

- B. The general standards are modified as follows:

1. Foundation Turf – shall be the vegetative increase of breeder’s sprigs, or in certain cases the increase of foundation sprigs.
2. Registered Turf – shall be the vegetative increase of foundation sprigs. A grower of registered turf may increase the original foundation class planting to no more than 10 acres if the increase is continuous within the original field and a GCIA Inspector is present at harvest and planting.
3. Certified Turf – shall be the vegetative increase of registered sprigs or foundation sprigs.
4. The field of each kind and variety must be identified at all times by an appropriate sign and field number and map with field number noted.
5. Size of Field: Maximum –

|               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| a. Foundation | <u>ten acres</u> |
| b. Registered | <u>ten acres</u> |
| c. Certified  | <u>no limit</u>  |

**II. Land Requirements (Rules covering land prior to planting)**

- A. A field to be eligible for the production of foundation, registered or certified turf must have been inspected and found to be free of all perennial grasses, objectionable and noxious weeds. A second inspection will be made approximately four to six weeks after planting.
- B. Certified turfgrass producers who have been members continuously for no less than five years may be exempt from preplant inspections if the following criteria are met:
- Application for field inspection and membership are made prior to planting;
  - Signing of a waiver by the member or GCIA authorized turfgrass representative accepting all responsibility for electing to not have a preplant inspection performed, is submitted prior to planting;

- The exemption does not apply to foundation or registered class fields or “Dwarf” turfgrass varieties;
  - Fields that previously (within 12 months) have grown the same species of grass as the species to be planted are not exempt.
- C. Land fumigated with approved material must lay idle for a period of not less than three weeks after fumigation (or not less than six weeks when converting to like species) and be inspected for compliance with Section II., A. Land must receive adequate moisture, (a minimum of ¾” per week) and soil temperature (60° F at 4” soil depth) must be adequate to allow any live plants not eradicated by fumigation to emerge. Fields passing a preplant inspection prior to fumigation do not require a three or six week waiting period.

Fumigation rate, material and process to be approved by the GCIA Turfgrass Committee appointed at the most recent Annual Membership Meeting.

- D. All foundation and registered class grass will be produced on fumigated land or inspected for an entire growing season and meet Section II., A., requirements. Certified class turf may be planted on fumigated land and must comply with Section II., A. and C., if fumigated.

### **III. Field Inspections (After planting)**

- A. Prior to inspection:

To be in compliance with the published standards a field must be rogued and/or sprayed with a herbicide during the growing season to remove (1) other varieties\*, (2) other perennial grasses, (3) common weeds, (4) objectionable and noxious weeds.

\*Other varieties shall include any other plants of the same kind not described in the variety description as provided by the breeder/originator.

- B. Time and number of inspections:

1. Foundation, Registered and Certified (three inspections required)  
Spring (April or May)  
Summer (June or July)  
Fall (September or October)
2. Every two years an intensive field inspection will be made of the registered and foundation classes. A representative area of the field (10%) will not be harvested until seed heads appear.
3. Per the definitions below, Certified Turfgrass fields may be rejected or placed in pending for failing to meet the appropriate standard.

Mature sod (sod that will be harvested before the next scheduled inspection per the time and number of inspections noted in the standard) may be rejected\* if the sod or field fails to meet the standard relating to noxious weeds, other living plants exceeding standard or inability to make an inspection due to cultural practices. Fields rejected are to be reinspected

before certified grass can be sold and will not be published in the annual Turfgrass Buyers Guide.

Immature sod (sod that will not be harvested before the next scheduled inspection per the time and number of inspections noted in the standard, usually new fields or recently harvested fields) may be placed in pending\* if the sod or field fails to meet the standard relating to noxious weeds, other varieties, other crop, other living plants exceeding standard or inability to make an inspection due to cultural practices. Fields placed in pending may be published in the annual Turfgrass Buyers Guide.

\*For uniform fields, use GCIA field inspection sampling protocols.

**IV. Field Standards**

A. General

1. Restrictions on number of varieties per farm:

Only one variety of a kind may be grown for certified turf on a farm except with prior approval of the certifying agency.

2. Unit of Certification:

A field or portion of a field may be certified. A registered field may not be divided for certification.

3. Isolation requirements:

Plantings of vegetatively propagated turfgrasses must be isolated from any other variety and other perennial grasses and other certification classes by an artificial barrier and/or strip at least 6 ft. wide to prevent mixing during the growing season and harvesting operation. Pollen producing varieties must be isolated to prevent contamination from other species. Distance from source of contamination will be determined by the GCIA Executive Director after collaboration with a knowledgeable turfgrass breeder.

B. Specific Requirements

| <u>Factor</u>               | <u>Maximum permitted in each class</u> |                      |                     |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|
|                             | <u>Foundation***</u>                   | <u>Registered***</u> | <u>Certified***</u> |
| *Other Varieties            | None                                   | None                 | 1plant/A***         |
| **Other Crops               | None                                   | None                 | 1 plant/A****       |
| Noxious/Objectionable Weeds | None                                   | None                 | None                |
| ****Other Living Plants     |  |                      |                     |

\* Other varieties shall include any other plants of the same kind not described in the variety description as provided by the breeder/originator.

\*\* Other crops shall consist of all other kinds and varieties of perennial grasses.

\*\*\* Other live varieties, other live crops and live noxious weeds found in excess of standards during field inspection must be eradicated. **Reinspection required and to be made not less than three weeks after rejection, cost of reinspection to be paid by producer.**

\*\*\*\* Those live plants found by an inspector must be eradicated by grower.

\*\*\*\*\* Other living plants – not to exceed one plant per 100 sq. ft. Over seeding with a non persistent cool season grass is acceptable and the production field may be sold as Certified if the field passed the last inspection.

C. Life of Stand: The life of the stand will continue for all classes of vegetatively propagated paspalum turfgrasses as long as the varietal and mechanical purity for the class is maintained except the life of the stand for the registered class shall be limited to 5 years.

D. Production fields that fail to meet the published field requirements for varietal purity for the class applied for within one growing year will be downgraded to the next lowest class if the field meets the standard of the next class or removed from certification. A field removed from certification may be re-entered into certification if it meets the requirements in Section II., Land Requirements (Rules covering land prior to planting).

E. Turf Standards

Objectionable Weeds.....None

Objectionable Weeds: Perennial sedges other than nutsedge (grass) and Dicrondra spp.

## V. **Responsibilities of Authorized Representative**

Each certified turfgrass certificate must be signed by an authorized representative. The turfgrass producer must notify the GCIA office in writing or in the space provided on the GCIA Turfgrass Application the name of the person(s) authorized to sign certificates.

A. The Authorized Representative is responsible for:

1. Making certain that all grass represented on the certificate was inspected and accepted for certification.
2. Making certain the certificates contain all the required information and is correct (i.e., kind, variety, quantity, billing invoice, field #, harvest date, and grower information).
3. Making sure that grass represented by the certificate continues to meet the appropriate GCIA Turfgrass Standards after the GCIA inspection.
4. Making sure the certificate accompanies each shipment of grass.
5. Mailing the appropriate certificate copy to the GCIA office weekly.
6. Preventing non-certified grass from being sold as certified grass.

7. Making certain that those records required in the GCIA Turfgrass Standards are maintained.

B. Training of Authorized Representative

Attendance at a training session is required prior to signing certificates. All authorized representatives must attend a training not less than every four years.

**INSTRUCTIONS & PROCEDURES**

1. All planting, mowing, harvesting and loading equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to entering the field.
2. An official numbered certificate will accompany each shipment of certified sprigs, sod or plugs.
3. A complete record on the amount of certified turf sales will be maintained and made available to the official certifying agency. The record will include (a) class of certified turf sold (Foundation, Registered or Certified), (b) kind and variety, (c) field number, (d) date of harvest, and (e) amount of turf shipped (square feet, cubic feet, bushels, etc.).
5. Beginning July 1, 2017, new turfgrass producers must utilize the GCIA ETCert Program.

# **TALL FESCUE TURFGRASS SOD CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

## **I. Application of General Certification Standards**

- A. The General Seed Certification Standards as adopted by the Association are basic and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for certification of fescue.

New growers, owner or designated representative, must attend a GCIA conducted training course prior to submitting an application. The GCIA Executive Director will determine date and locations. Turfgrass applications not received by May 1, with the exception of new producers, will not be accepted.

- B. The general standards are modified as follows:

1. Foundation sod shall be the increase of breeder seed.
2. Registered sod shall be the increase of foundation seed.
3. Certified sod shall be the increase of foundation, registered or certified seeds.
  - a. Grower is to use sod quality seed.

## **II. Land Requirements (Rules covering land prior to planting)**

A field to be eligible for the production of registered or certified fescue must have been inspected and found to be free of all perennial grasses, objectionable and noxious weeds\*. A second inspection will be made approximately four to six weeks after planting.

\*Certified turfgrass producers who have been members continuously for no less than five years may be exempt from preplant inspections if the following criteria are met:

- Application for field inspection and membership are made prior to planting;
- A waiver signed by the member or GCIA authorized turfgrass representative accepting all responsibility for electing to not have a preplant inspection performed, is submitted prior to planting;
- The exemption does not apply to Foundation or Registered class fields;
- Fields that previously (within 12 months) have grown the same species of grass as the species to be planted are not exempt.

## **III. Field Inspections**

- A. General

1. Field Inspection
  - a. Handling the crop after planting and prior to inspection.

A field must be rogued and/or sprayed with an herbicide during the growing season to remove (1) other varieties, (2) other perennial grasses, (3) most common weeds, (4) objectionable and noxious weeds.

- b. Sod will be inspected prior to harvest. It is the responsibility of the grower to notify GCI A ten working days prior to harvest for an inspection.
- c. Sod will be inspected every thirty days from start of harvest until completion.

2. Field Standards

a. General

- 1. Restriction on number of varieties per farm

Only one variety of a kind may be grown for certified turf on a farm except upon prior approval of GCI A.

- 2. Unit of certification

A field or portion of a field may be certified.

- 3. Isolation requirements

Six feet void of any grass is required from any other annual or perennial grasses which may contaminate the crop being inspected.

**IV. Specific Requirements**

| <u>Factor</u>                  | <u>Maximum permitted</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| *Other Varieties               | 10 plants per acre       |
| **Other Crops                  | None <u>1/</u>           |
| ***Noxious/Objectionable Weeds | None                     |

- \* Other varieties shall consist of all other varieties of the kind being produced.
- \*\* Other crops shall consist of all other kinds and varieties of perennial and annual grasses.
- \*\*\* See General Seed Certification Standards for list of Noxious Weeds
- 1/ Annual ryegrass – 1 per 100 sq. ft.

**INSTRUCTIONS & PROCEDURES**

- 1. All planting, mowing, harvesting and loading equipment must be thoroughly cleaned prior to entering the field.
- 2. An official numbered certificate will accompany each shipment of certified sod.



3. A complete record on the amount of certified sod harvested will be maintained and made available to GCIA upon request. The record will include (a) kind and variety, (b) field number, (c) date of harvest, and (d) amount of sod shipped (square feet, cubic feet, bushels, etc.).
4. Each field will be numbered. Fields not numbered or identified will be rejected.
5. Each certified turfgrass certificate must be signed by an authorized representative. The turfgrass producer must notify the GCIA office in writing or in the space provided on the GCIA Turfgrass Application the name of the person(s) authorized to sign certificates.
  - A. The Authorized Representative is responsible for:
    - Making certain that all grass represented on the certificate was inspected and accepted for certification.
    - Making certain the certificates contain all the required information and is correct (i.e., kind, variety, quantity, billing invoice, field #, harvest date, and grower information).
    - Making sure that grass represented by the certificate continues to meet the appropriate GCIA Turfgrass Standards after the GCIA inspection.
    - Making sure the certificate accompanies each shipment of grass.
    - Mailing the appropriate certificate copy to the GCIA office weekly.
    - Preventing non-certified grass from being sold as certified grass.
    - Making certain that those records required in the GCIA Turfgrass Standards are maintained.
  - B. Training of Authorized Representative

Attendance at a training session is required prior to signing certificates. All authorized representatives must attend training not less than every four years.
6. Beginning July 1, 2017, new turfgrass producers must utilize the GCIA ETCert Program.

**VEGETATIVELY PROPAGATED HYBRID BLUEGRASS TURFGRASS**  
**(STERILE HYBRID VARIETIES)**  
**CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

**I. Application and Amplification of General Certification Standards**

- A. The General Seed Certification Standards as adopted by the Association are basic and together with the following specific standards, constitute the standards for certification of vegetatively propagated Sterile Bluegrass.

New growers, owner or designated representative, must attend a GCIA conducted training course prior to submitting an application. The GCIA Executive Director will determine date and locations. Turfgrass applications not received by May 1, with the exception of new producers, will not be accepted.

- B. The general standards are modified as follows:

1. Foundation Turf – shall be the vegetative increase of breeder’s sprigs or in certain cases the vegetative increase of foundation sprigs.
2. Registered Turf – shall be the vegetative increase of foundation sprigs. A grower of registered turf may increase the original foundation class planting to no more than 10 acres if the increase is continuous within the original field.
3. Certified Turf – shall be the vegetative increase of registered sprigs or foundation sprigs.
4. The field of each kind and variety must be identified at all times by an appropriate sign and field number and or map with field number noted.

- |                             |               |                  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| C. Size of Field: Maximum – | a. Foundation | <u>ten acres</u> |
|                             | b. Registered | <u>ten acres</u> |
|                             | c. Certified  | <u>no limit</u>  |

**II. Land Requirements (Rules covering land prior to planting)**

- A. A field to be eligible for the production of foundation, registered or certified turf must have been inspected and found to be free of all perennial grasses, objectionable and noxious weeds.
- B. Certified turfgrass producers who have been members continuously for no less than five years may be exempt from preplant inspections if the following criteria are met:
- Application for field inspection and membership are made prior to planting;

- Signing of a waiver by the member or GCIA authorized turfgrass representative accepting all responsibility for electing to not have a preplant inspection performed, is submitted prior to planting;
  - The exemption does not apply to Foundation or Registered class fields.
  - Fields that previously (within 12 months) have grown the same species of grass as the species to be planted are not exempt.
- C. Land fumigated with approved material must lay idle for a period of not less than three weeks after fumigation (or not less than six weeks when converting to like species) and be inspected for compliance with Section II., A. Land must receive adequate moisture, (a minimum of ¾" per week) and soil temperature (60° F at 4" soil depth) must be adequate to allow any live plants not eradicated by fumigation to emerge. Fields passing a preplant inspection prior to fumigation do not require a three or six week waiting period.

Fumigation rate, material and process to be approved by the GCIA Turfgrass Committee appointed at the most recent Annual Membership Meeting.

- D. All foundation and registered class grass will be produced on fumigated land or inspected for an entire growing season and meet Section II., A., requirements. Certified class turf may be planted on fumigated land and must comply with Section II., A. and C., if fumigated.

### **III. Field Inspections (After Planting)**

- A. Prior to Inspection:

To be in compliance with the published standards a field must be rogued and/or sprayed with a herbicide during the growing season to remove (1) other varieties\*, (2) other perennial grasses, (3) common weeds, (4) objectionable and noxious weeds.

\*Other varieties shall include any other plants of the same kind not described in the variety description as provided by the breeder/originator.

- B. Life of Stand:

The life of the stand will continue for all classes of vegetatively propagated bluegrass as long as the varietal and mechanical purity for the class is maintained.

- C. Time and number of inspections:

Foundation, Registered and Certified (three inspections required)

- Spring (April or May)
- Summer (June or July)
- Fall (September or October)

- D. Per the definitions below, Certified Turfgrass fields may be rejected or placed in pending for failing to meet the appropriate standard.

Mature sod (sod that will be harvested before the next scheduled inspection per the time and number of inspections noted in the standard) may be rejected\* if the sod or field fails to meet the standard relating to noxious weeds, other varieties, other crop, other living plants exceeding standard or inability to make an inspection due to cultural practices. Fields rejected are to be reinspected before certified grass can be sold and will not be published in the annual Turfgrass Buyers Guide.

Immature sod (sod that will not be harvested before the next scheduled inspection per the time and number of inspections noted in the standard, usually new fields or recently harvested fields) may be placed in pending\* if the sod or field fails to meet the standard relating to noxious weeds, other living plants exceeding standard or inability to make an inspection due to cultural practices. Fields placed in pending may be published in the annual Turfgrass Buyers Guide.

\*For uniform fields, use GCIA field inspection sampling protocols.

#### IV. **Field Standards**

A. General

1. An inspection will be made approximately four to six weeks after the initial planting.
2. Restrictions on number of varieties per farm:

Only one variety of a kind may be grown for certified turf on a farm except with prior approval of the certifying agency.

3. Unit of Certification:

A field or portion of a field may be certified. A registered field may not be divided for certification.

4. Isolation requirements:

Planting of vegetatively propagated turfgrasses must be isolated from any other variety and other perennial grasses by an artificial barrier and/or strip at least 6 ft. wide to prevent contamination during the growing season and harvesting operation.

Different classes (Foundation, Registered, Certified) of the same species must be clearly delineated by bare ground, roads, drainage ditches, pivot tracks, etc. with a minimum distance of not less than 2 ft.

B. Specific Field Requirements

| <u>Factor</u>               | <u>Maximum permitted in each class</u> |                      |                     |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|
|                             | <u>Foundation***</u>                   | <u>Registered***</u> | <u>Certified***</u> |
| *Other Varieties            | None                                   | None                 | 1plant/A***         |
| **Other Crops               | None                                   | None                 | 1 plant/A****       |
| Noxious/Objectionable Weeds | None                                   | None                 | None                |
| *****Other Living Plants    |  |                      |                     |

\* Other varieties shall include any other plants of the same kind not described in the variety description as provided by the breeder/originator.

\*\* Other crops shall consist of all other kinds and varieties of perennial grasses.

\*\*\* Other live varieties, other live crops and live noxious weeds found in excess of standards during field inspection must be eradicated. **Reinspection required and to be made not less than three weeks after rejection, cost of reinspection to be paid by producer.**

\*\*\*\* Those live plants found by an inspector must be eradicated by grower.

\*\*\*\*\* Other living plants – not to exceed one plant per 100 sq. ft.

Objectionable Weeds: Perennial sedges other than nutsedge (grass) and Dichondra spp.

C. Production fields that fail to meet the published field requirements for varietal purity for the class applied for within one growing year will be downgraded to the next lowest class if the field meets the standard of the next class or removed from certification. A field removed from certification may be re-entered into certification if it meets the requirements in Section II., Land Requirements (Rules covering land prior to planting).

V. **Responsibilities of Authorized Representative of the Grower**

A. The Authorized Representative is responsible for:

1. Making certain that all grass represented on the certificate was inspected and accepted for certification.
2. Making certain the certificates contain all the required information and is correct (i.e., kind, variety, quantity, billing invoice, field #, harvest date and grower information).
3. Making sure that grass represented by the certificate continues to meet the appropriate GCIA Turfgrass Standards after the GCIA inspection.
4. Making sure the certificate accompanies each shipment of grass.
5. Mailing the appropriate certificate copy to the GCIA office weekly.
6. Preventing non-certified grass from being sold as certified grass.

7. Making certain that those records required in the GCIA Turfgrass Standards are maintained.
8. Each certified turfgrass certificate must be signed by an authorized representative. The turfgrass producer must notify the GCIA office in writing or in the space provided on the GCIA Turfgrass Application the name of the person(s) authorized to sign certificates.

B. Training of Authorized Representative

Attendance at a training session is required prior to signing certificates. All authorized representatives must attend training not less than every four years.

**INSTRUCTIONS & PROCEDURES**

1. An official numbered certificate will accompany each shipment of certified sprigs, sod or plugs.
2. A complete record on the amount of certified turf sales will be maintained and made available to the official certifying agency. The record will include (a) class of certified turf sold (Foundation, Registered or Certified), (b) kind and variety, (c) field number, (d) date of harvest and (e) amount of turf shipped (square feet, cubic feet, bushels, etc.).
3. Beginning July 1, 2017, new turfgrass producers must utilize the GCIA ETCert Program.