

Weed-Free Seed, Unicorns, and other Myths



We order our "Noxious: None" seed and we're done, right?

%	Species	Common Name	Lot#	% Purity	%Germ	%Dorm	PLS Lbs	Bulk Lbs	Date	Origin
0.59%	<i>Bouteloua curtipendula</i>	'Butte'Side-oats Grama NINER	15558	82.43	52.00	38.00	0.23	0.31	3/13	MN
9.52%	<i>Bromus ciliatus</i>	Fringed Brome, Central CO	15874	95.31	86.00		3.51	4.28	8/13	WA
3.94%	<i>Elymus elymoides</i>	Bottlebrush Squirreltail TUSAS	15881	98.39	94.00		1.59	1.72	9/13	WA
16.20%	<i>Elymus lanceolatus lanceolatus</i>	Shickspike Wheatgrass	15954	98.26	69.00	13.00	5.69	7.07	4/13	WA
11.76%	<i>Elymus trachycaulus</i>	Slender Wheatgrass First Strike	16012	97.32		96.00	4.84	5.18	10/13	WA
2.72%	<i>Festuca idahoensis</i>	Idaho Fescue JOSEPH	15508	99.41	83.00		0.97	1.17	4/14	WA
0.19%	<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Junegrass, UP Sims Mesa	15879	96.35	93.00		0.08	0.08	8/13	WA
6.30%	<i>Pascopyrum smithii</i>	Western Wheatgrass ARRIBA	16541	94.49	85.00		2.30	2.86	10/13	WA
0.12%	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Sand Dropseed	16518	99.19	97.00		0.05	0.05	4/13	CO
4.73%	<i>Stipa viridula</i>	Green Needlegrass LODORM	16045	99.55		95.00	1.93	2.04	8/13	Can
41.15%	<i>Triticale</i>	Quickguard	15618	97.42	95.00		16.75	18.10	6/13	WA

Lot # 16577

37.925 ac

Noxious: None

Bulk lbs 42.86 Inert 2.71% Crop 0.07% Weed 0.00%

Real-life example: HWY Seeding

- A contractor performed roadside seeding along a Colorado State Highway on National Forest land for flood recovery soil stabilization
- Assurance that “certified weed free seed” was used
- 1171 bulk pounds of seed applied to 26 acres on 7-mile corridor
- Forest Service researched what was in seed and found.....

About 24 aggressive weeds!

- One Colorado state listed noxious weed – our friend **cheatgrass**
- One lot of seed had 731 cheatgrass seeds per pound
- Total cheatgrass seed hitting the ground along a busy highway and streamside corridor = **56, 455**

3 species are apparently new records for Colorado if they germinate and grow

One species of weedy grass is among the “top ten”
most economically damaging weeds to crops and ag
industry in Canada (Persian darnel, *Lolium persicum*)
and only known from one county in Colorado

Steve's favorite new weed is Malta Starthistle



825 seeds hit the ground



Rejection rates

- Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests 60-80%
- Adjacent Boulder County Open Space 20-25%
- Hampering ability to meet restoration goals or access suitable seed

Proceed with Caution:

Dangerous intersection ahead

Intersection of:

Wildfire restoration

Sagegrouse habitat and the gang

Too many lists

PM/Natl Seed Strategy

Ecotypic NPM

Pollinator plants

Industry challenges

Monarch habitat

Suboptimal awareness of realistic tolerance requests and seed lab analysis

Capacity & budget constraints

Concern

Need to get on top of this thing
or it will get on top us

Need to be strategic between
Industry and Users, and in all
steps in chain of custody



And slow the elephant in the room before it charges faster!





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This and additional presentations available at <http://nativeseed.info>

