

The South African Seed Certification Scheme

ANNEXURE 43

REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO LUCERNE (*Medicago sativa* L.)

1 Field requirements

- 1.1 Subject to the provisions of paragraph 1.2, a field may be registered as a unit only if -
 - 1.1.1 no plants of any species of *Medicago* have been established thereon for seed production or otherwise during the growing season preceding the registration thereof; or
 - 1.1.2 the plants which are already established thereon have also during the preceding growing season been used for the production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed or certified seed, as the case may be.
- 1.2 A field which is intended for the production of basic seed or certified seed of a particular lucerne variety, may also be registered as a unit, if -
 - 1.2.1 in the case of basic seed, certified pre-basic seed of the same variety has been produced thereon during the preceding growing season; and
 - 1.2.2 in the case of certified seed, certified pre-basic seed or basic seed of the same variety has been produced thereon during the preceding growing season; and
 - 1.2.3 in the case of 2nd generation certified seed, 1st generation certified seed of the same variety has been produced thereon during the preceding growing season.

2 Planting requirements

- 2.1 Seed shall be sown or be established in rows on a unit.
- 2.2 If established in rows on a unit, the area between such rows shall for a period of one year after the plants were established on a unit, be kept free from any plants.
- 2.3 All vegetation within a distance of three metres around a unit shall be kept short until seed has been harvested from the plants on the unit concerned.

3 Isolation requirements

- 3.1 A unit shall be surrounded by an isolation area which -
 - 3.1.1 in the case of the intended production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed -
 - 3.1.1.1 at least 200 metres wide where the area of the unit concerned is two hectares or less; and
 - 3.1.1.2 at least 100 metres wide where the area of the unit concerned exceeds two hectares; and
 - 3.1.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed -
 - 3.1.2.1 is at least 100 metres wide where the area of the unit concerned is two hectares or less; and
 - 3.1.2.2 is at least 50 metres wide where the area of the unit concerned exceeds two hectares.
- 3.2 Such isolation area shall be free from plants of any lucerne variety or species of *Medicago* which flower at the same time as the plants on the unit concerned, unless -
 - 3.2.1 in the case of the intended production of basic seed, they have been established from certified pre-basic seed of the same variety; and
 - 3.2.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed, they have been established from certified pre-basic seed or basic seed of the same variety; and
 - 3.2.3 in the case of the intended production of an open-pollinated variety of 2nd generation certified seed, they have been established from 1st generation certified seed of the same variety.

4 Requirements for plants

- 4.1 Plants which are established on a unit may -
 - 4.1.1 if such unit is registered for the production of basic seed, be used for such purpose for a period of not more than two years after the year of establishment thereof, and may thereafter for a further period of not more than three years be used for the production of certified seed if the unit concerned is registered for this purpose;
 - 4.1.2 if such a unit is registered for the production of certified seed, be used for such purpose for a period of not more than three years after the year of establishment thereof; and
 - 4.1.3 annually be grazed from the time after the removal of the seed crop until October 15 of the following growing season.
- 4.2 The number of deviating plants on a unit shall -
 - 4.2.1 in the case of the intended production of certified pre-basic seed or basic seed, not exceed 0,2 percent; and
 - 4.2.2 in the case of the intended production of certified seed, not exceed 0,5 percent.
- 4.3 No plants of dodder (*Cuscuta* spp.) may occur on a unit.
- 4.4 Methods for determination of deviating plants shall be as determined by the Authority.

5 Inspection requirements

- 5.1 Plants which are established on a unit shall be inspected -
 - 5.1.1 before the flowering stage thereof;
 - 5.1.2 during the flowering stage thereof; and
 - 5.1.3 during the full seed stage thereof.
- 5.2 A seed grower shall notify the authorised person at least 14 days prior to the date on which plants are expected to start flowering.

6 Physical requirements

- Seed shall -
 - 6.1 have a germination percentage of at least 80; of which a maximum of 40 percent hard seeds may be counted as germinated seeds;
 - 6.2 have at least 98,0 percent pure seed; and
 - 6.3 not contain more than -
 - 6.3.1 0,2 percent other seed; and
 - 6.3.2 2,0 percent other material.
 - 6.3.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 6.3.1, not more than one seed of any of the restricted weed seed species may occur in an ISTA working sample for the determination of other seed by number of the specie being tested.