

HOW TO BECOME A CERTIFIED SEED GROWER AND COMPLETE CERTIFICATION

1. Review the appropriate crop standards and rules covering the crop you wish to certify.
2. Select a variety that is eligible for certification, foundation (white tag) or registered (purple tag) seed is required.
3. Application blanks and standards can be obtained through your County Extension Agent or writing the Georgia Crop Improvement Association, 2425 South Milledge Ave., Athens, Georgia 30605.
4. Fill out, sign and mail the application along with the source of seed (tag and invoice covering total amount of seed purchased) and check to cover certification fees to the GCIA office. See application for fees, date of filing, etc.
5. Rogue the fields of noxious weeds, other crops and other varieties before the inspector arrives.
6. Your crop will be inspected in the field after maturity, but before harvest. You will be given a copy of the inspection report. **DO NOT** harvest until the official field inspection has been made.
7. Clean and adjust all harvesting equipment. Clean and fumigate all storage facilities. Store seed in such a way as to maintain varietal purity and quality.
8. Take your seed to one of Georgia Crop Improvement Association's Approved Seed Plants.
9. When the seed are cleaned and in new GCIA emblemed or branded seed bags, the official sample will be taken by a GCIA Representative in an Approved Seed Plant or by the State Seed Inspector in your area. **NOTE:** The lot number must be stenciled on all bags of certified seed.
10. All seed laboratories that have a registered seed technologist are eligible to analyze seed for certification. In general, the inspector will mail the certified sample to the laboratory for you. (See list of Approved Seed Laboratories in Section 4).

11. From this sample a laboratory report will be made. Start in time because it will take about two weeks for this test to be completed and reported to GCIA.
12. On those lots of seed meeting the minimum GCIA standards, the Association will print and mail certification tags to you or the seed plant operator. A letter of rejection will be mailed on those lots failing to meet the standards.
13. Attach the certified seed tags to the proper bags and this will complete the certification. **Note:** In many cases, the seed plant operator is now requesting the tags in advance and sewing them into the bags as the seed are bagged. Tags must be removed from the bags on those lots of seed failing to meet the minimum GCIA standards. **DO NOT** move seed into the seed trade channels until it is officially cleared for certification. Failure to comply may result in suspension or expulsion from the program.