



## ILLINOIS CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION INC.

3105 Research Road, Champaign, IL 61822

Phone: (217) 359-4053  
Fax: (217) 359-4075

email: [ilcrop@ilcrop.com](mailto:ilcrop@ilcrop.com)  
[www.ilcrop.com](http://www.ilcrop.com)

**Date:** April 22, 2022

**To:** Current and Future Seed Certifiers and Industry Stakeholders

**From:** Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Inc. – Champaign Illinois

As stated in the Illinois Seed Law, the Illinois Crop Improvement Association (IL Crop) serves as Illinois' certification agency under agreements with the Illinois Agricultural Research Station, Illinois Department of Agriculture, and the United States Department of Agriculture.

IL Crop is a member of AOSCA, the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies. The primary purposes of AOSCA are:

- To establish minimum standards for genetic purity and identity and recommended minimum standards for seed quality for the classes of certified seed.
- To standardize seed certification regulations, procedures, and interoperability rules for interagency seed certification.
- To cooperate with seed regulatory agencies to determine policy, regulations, definitions, or any procedures relating to the labeling and distribution of seed moving in intrastate, interstate, or international commerce.
- To cooperate with the USDA, OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development), and international organizations involved in the developing standards, regulations, procedures, and policies to expedite seed movement and encourage international commerce in improved varieties.
- To assist its members in promoting, producing, identifying, distributing, and using the certified classes of seed and other propagating materials of crop varieties.

As an official member agency, IL Crop operates under AOSCA standards within the regulatory framework of the Federal Seed Act, Plant Variety Protection Act, and the Illinois Seed Law. Under the National Seed Health System, the association offers phytosanitary services in Illinois and Puerto Rico within the scope of accreditation on file with USDA APHIS. IL Crop expects its members and customers to follow all applicable state and federal regulations. IL Crop is obligated to enforce all rules and regulations within the scope of seed certification and its accreditations.

Building on its seed certification role, IL Crop provides professional unbiased information and valuable services that facilitate the development, production, and maintenance of quality seeds, grains, and agricultural products. As an AOSCA member, we offer Quality Assurance (QA),



Identity Preservation (IP), and Source Identified (Wildland Collected Seed) programs. IL Crop is also a North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) Weed Free Forage and Gravel WFF&G Partner Agency. The association is also an Institutional Member of the Seed Innovation Protection Alliance (SIPA).

To learn more about our seed certification services and responsibilities, explore our website at [ilcrop.com](http://ilcrop.com) or contact us at 217-359-4053 or [ilcrop@ilcrop.com](mailto:ilcrop@ilcrop.com).

-Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Inc.

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The University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station has appointed the Illinois Crop Improvement Association, Inc. as the seed certifying agency in Illinois under the provisions of section 9 in the Illinois Seed Law. The Department of Agriculture will recognize as official the standards and rules for seed certification last established and authorized by the University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station and as carried out by its authorized agent, the Illinois Crop Improvement Association, under the authority granted in section 9 of the Illinois Seed Law, provided they are in compliance with the Illinois Seed Law and its rules.

-Illinois Seed Law & Rules and Regulations, 1988

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