

Seed Testing in South Dakota

A public seed testing laboratory is maintained by SDSU to test seed samples for farmers, seedsmen, South Dakota Crop Improvement Association, and the South Dakota State Department of Agriculture. The lab is equipped with modern testing equipment necessary to perform tests on all kinds of agricultural crops, vegetables, trees, grass, and flower seed. It is staffed with experienced, technically trained and accredited analysts (CSA and RST*) and part-time assistants who work under constant supervision. All analyses performed by the lab are made according to the Rules for Testing Seeds published by the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA). The report issued by the lab is an official test of the sample submitted.

Obtaining a Sample

To take a representative sample, obtain five to seven subsamples from several areas of the bin using a seed probe. Mix the probed samples and divide them down to the amount needed for testing. DO NOT sample just the top one foot of your bin. If the seed is in bags, sample five bags plus 10% of the total number of bags in the seed lot (i.e. 50 bags; sample 10 bags) and divide sample down to desired weight.

Size of Sample for Testing

Cereals	1 quart
Small seeded legumes and grasses	1/2 quart
Soybeans	1 quart
Non-chaffy grasses	1 quart
Chaffy Grasses	1 quart
Sunflowers	1 quart

- Samples for Seed Certification should be double this size.
- Treated seed must be clearly labeled and treatment must be indicated.

*CSA Certified Seed Analyst (AOSA)

*RST Registered Seed Technologist (SCST)

Appropriate Sales Tax will be added.

Prices are subject to change without prior notice.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
Buckwheat	Corn	Alfalfa/Clovers	Bluegrass	Alkali Sacaton
Cereals	Field Beans	Birdsfoot Trefoil	Bromegrass	Buffalograss
Flax	Field Peas	Crownvetch	Fescue	Indian Ricegrass
Proso Millet	Soybeans	Foxtail Millet	Orchardgrass	Prairie Dropseed
Safflower		Lead Plant	Redtop/Bentgrass	Sand Dropseed
Sorghum		Lespedeza	Reed Canarygrass	Sand Lovegrass
Sudangrass		Pearl Millet	Ryegrass	Switchgrass
Sunflower		Rape/Canola	Timothy	Western Whtgr.
		Sainfoin	Wheatgrass Spp. (except Western)	
		Sweetclover	Wildrye Spp.	
		Vetch		
Category 6	Category 7	Category 8	Category 9	
Bluestems	Bulrush/Sedges	Mixtures, samples	Green Needlegrass	
Creeping Foxtail	Flowers/Wildflowers	with excessive		
Gramas	Herbs	weed seed, or		
Indiangrass	Shrubs	any purity samples		
Prairie Cordgrass	Trees	taking 1 hour		
Prairie Sandreed	Vegetables	or more to complete.		

Cost by Category¹

Category	Purity ²	Germ ⁶
1	\$ 19.00	\$22.00 ⁵
2	22.00 (includes noxious)	23.00
3	23.00	24.00
4	28.00	32.00
5	28.00	36.00
6	45.00/hour	36.00
7	45.00/hour	36.00
8	45.00/hour	36.00 ³
9	25.00	60.00 ⁴

¹ Purity and noxious testing by ISTA rules are double the shown rate.

² Purities requiring 1+ hours to complete are charged at \$45.00/hour.

³ Sum of individual cost of each component.

⁴ Includes germination and tetrazolium test.

⁵ Cost for planting 8 reps of 50 seed – \$25.00.

⁶ Sand/soil germinations – add \$10.00.

Other Testing Charges

South Dakota Noxious	\$15.00
USA Noxious (Continental USA—excludes AK & HI)	25.00
UGS Check (Undesirable Grass Seed)	28.00
USA Noxious and UGS	35.00
Western States Noxious (CO, ID, KS, MT, ND, NE, NV, SD, UT, WY)	25.00

Tetrazolium (TZ) Testing:

Cereals	\$37.00
Grasses	44.00
Legumes	44.00
Others (Buckwheat, Sunflower, Safflower, Flax)	42.00

Accelerated Aging 25.00

Alfalfa Dodder Check (400g exam) 50.00

Barley Smut Test 50.00

Chlorox Soak 16.00

Corn Cold Test 24.00

Variety ID (HPLC) check online for price/brochure

Fluorescence on Oats 4.00 with purity, 10.00 alone

Moisture Test

Meter 7.00

Air-oven 20.00

Potassium Hydroxide 45.00

Quick (Rush) Test 42.00

Rough Purity (on chaffy grass, unofficial) 30.00

Roundup Check Alone (bioassay method) 27.00

Seed Count per lb. (Free with other test) 5.00

Seed Fill Check (chaffy types) 20.00

Seed Identification (Free to active clients) 5.00/sample

Soybean Roundup Ready Test

(includes standard germination) 40.00

Test Weight 6.00

Routine Testing Services

Purity Analysis* (P): Determines percentage of pure seed, inert matter, other crop, and weed seed present in the sample submitted for analysis. Identification is made of the other crop and weed seed found and reported out at the rate of occurrence.

Noxious Exam* (N): Determines rate of occurrence for any prohibited or restricted noxious weed seeds present in the sample. Only the presence of weed seeds noxious to South Dakota are determined in the South Dakota Noxious Test while the presence of any weed seed considered noxious somewhere within the continental United States is determined in the USA (Continental) Noxious Test. Request USA if seed is to be sold out of state. *Does not include UGS check!*

Germination Test* (G), also known as standard or warm germ: Determines percentage of normal seedlings that develop under ideal growing conditions. The percentage of hard seed or dormant seed is also determined when present, and reported as a portion of the total viable percentage.

Tetrazolium Test (TZ): A rapid (24-48 hr.) chemical viability test which can be used to estimate the results of the germination test; however, **it cannot be used as a legal substitute for the germination test.** Results of the TZ test will be phoned or emailed to the customer when completed.

Accelerated Aging Test (AA): A high humidity, high temperature stress test that is a good indicator of vigor in soybean seed and other crops. This test should be conducted in conjunction with a standard germination test.

Cold Test: An excess moisture, field soil, and low temperature stress test that has proven to be useful in determining the vigor level of corn and other crops. This test should be conducted in conjunction with a standard germination test.

UGS Check: A check for undesirable grass seed (on a noxious sample size) in lawn and turf seed/mixtures as indicated in the Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia State Seed Laws.

Rough Purity: An unofficial test to determine purity of uncleaned seed lots. Used primarily for chaffy grasses (i.e. bluestems, etc.) Only 1/4 of the official purity sample size is tested.

Seed Fill Check: A quick test to determine a rough percent of pure seed in samples of bluestems and Indiangrass taken from unharvested fields. Assists the client in determining if harvest is economically feasible.

HPLC Variety ID/Verification: A test to identify/verify wheat, oats, barley, rye, and triticale varieties. Call or check our website under the "Quick Links" section for cost and information. (<https://www.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/file-archive/2021-06/HPLC-fees-and-information.pdf>)

Seed Count/Pound: The number of seeds per pound will be determined on the sample submitted for analysis by an electronic seed counter. Performed upon request only.

Quick Test (Rush): Samples submitted for analysis are normally tested in the order in which they are received. The request for a quick test will give that sample first priority ahead of other samples.

Uncleaned Samples: The seed lab reserves the right to refuse to test screenings or very dirty, unclean samples. If samples of this type are accepted for testing, charges will be assessed at the rate of \$45.00 per hour labor.

Smut Test: Smut tests are available on barley samples sent to the Seed Testing Lab. Research has indicated that a direct relationship exists between the percent of seeds infected with smut and percent of yield loss when infection rates exceed 5%.

*** Required for sale in South Dakota, SDCL 38-12A.**

SEED TESTING LABORATORY



Seed Testing Services Analyst Training Seed Research

Member

Association of Official Seed Analysts
Society of Commercial Seed Technologists

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The South Dakota Seed Law requires that a complete test (Purity, Noxious Weed Exam, and Germination) must be obtained before any seed can be sold, offered for sale, or transported for sale.