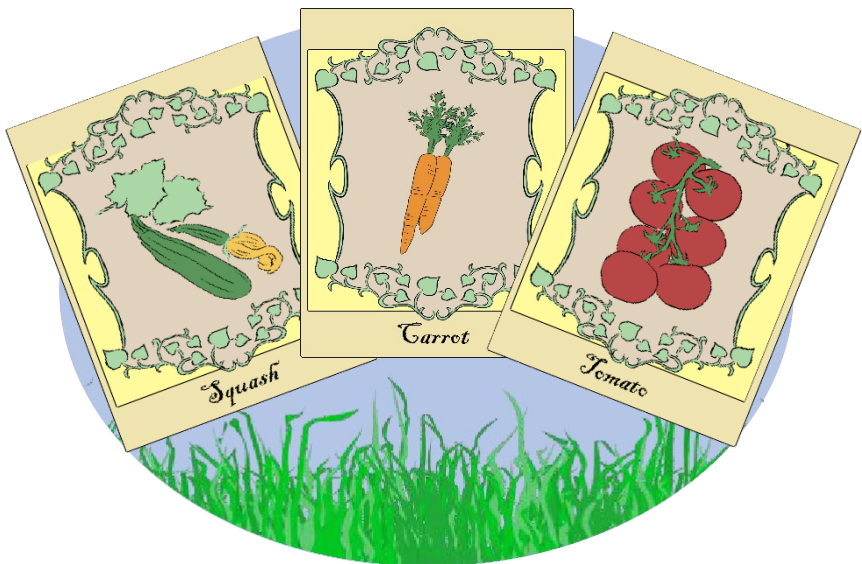




CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

# Selling and Labeling Seed for Nonfarm Use



**Nonfarm** is any place not designated as a farm (a place of agricultural production which has annual sales of agricultural products of \$1,000 or more [FAC 52262]).

7/2023

**General Label Requirements:** all nonfarm seed must have the following, in addition to those required by type of seed (FAC 52452, 52453):

- Clearly printed, written in English on a label/tag in a conspicuous location.
- Name and address of labeler (full address or city, state, zip code).
- Viability assurance statement: "SELL BY (month) (year)," or "USE BEFORE (month) (year)," with the month and year not exceeding 15 months at retail (FAC 52481 (b)), in a font of the same size and type of other printed material, and contiguous with the germination date (FAC 52455).

**Vegetable Seed:** includes seed of any crop which may be grown in gardens or truck farms and generally known and sold under the name vegetable seed (FAC 52259; 3 CCR § 3863 (b)). Label requirements (FAC 52453):

- Commonly accepted name of kind and variety of seed.
- If the container is ½lb (8oz) or less, the viability assurance statement may read "Packed for (year) season" as an alternative.
- Germination percentage is not required unless the seed germinates less than standard germination:
  - Label requires the words "Below Standard" (in no less than 8pt font), the percentage of germination, the percentage of hard seed (if present), and the calendar month and year the germination test was completed.
  - Germination standards can be found in the California Code of Regulations (3 CCR § 3900) and includes hard seed (3 CCR § 3865).
- If container is larger than ½lb (8oz), it must also have a lot number and the month and year the germination test was completed (FAC 52453 (d)). Germination tests must be within 8 months for transportation/resale or 15 months for retail (FAC 52481).

**Agricultural Seed:** includes seed of domesticated grass or cereal, any plant grown as turf, cover crop, forage crop, fiber crop, or field crop, including mixtures of these seeds, but not including varieties generally known and sold as flower or vegetable seed (FAC 52254; 3 CCR § 3863 (a)). Label requirements (FAC 52452):

- Commonly accepted name of kind, kind and variety, or kind and type of seed components, and percentage by weight.
- Lot number.
- Percentage by weight of all weed seed (not to exceed 1½ %), other agricultural seed, and inert matter (if seed is coated, include percent coating separately).
- Name and approximate number of restricted noxious weed seeds per pound.
- Germination percentage and test date for all named components.
- Please refer to FAC 54252 if seed is composed of multiple components.

Vegetable seed ½lb or less:

## Rusty Sunset Pumpkin Seeds



Packed for 2022 Season

Superior Squashes Inc.  
Sturdorville, CA 93939

Treated vegetable seed over ½lb:

## Pelican White Onion

Tested 7/2021 ■ SELL BY August 2022 ■ Lot: 2265986-21



**CAUTION: TREATED SEED** ■ Treated with Thiram

Do not use for food, feed, or oil purposes ■ In case of contact, flush skin or eyes with water

For eye contact, seek medical attention ■ Harmful if swallowed or inhaled

Home Gardeners Ltd ■ 888 Morningbird Ln, Spottersfield, CA 98765

Agricultural seed:

## Greatest Green Growth Lawn Mix

<u>Component</u>	<u>Purity</u>	<u>Germ</u>	<u>Test Date</u>
Buffet 20 Kentucky Bluegrass	32.00%	95%	05/2021
Tall Moon Tall Fescue	34.50%	94%	05/2021
Green Shores Perennial Ryegrass	32.60%	92%	05/2021

Weeds: 0.10%      Other Crop: 0.10%      Inert matter: 0.70%  
Noxious Weeds/lb: NONE      Lot: 5554545B      SELL BY June 2022

Great Green Lawns • Verdanton, CA 99999



Any seed that is treated with fungicides, pesticides, and/or other hazardous chemicals is considered **Treated Seed** and must have the following on its label, in addition to previous label requirements (FAC 52484):

- “TREATED SEED” and the signal word (WARNING, CAUTION, or DANGER) for the category of treatment material in all capital letters; if multiple substances are applied, the seed must be labeled for the substance with the highest level of toxicity.
- Chemical or generic name of all treatment materials.
- Appropriately worded statement as to the hazards to humans and animals.
- Appropriately worded statement of practical treatment, if present.

This information is taken from the California Seed Law, which contains excerpts from the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) and the California Code of Regulations (CCR). As regulations can change, please refer to online sources for the most up-to-date information on regulations and laws concerning seed. The California Seed Law can be found on the CDFA Seed Services website.

Please review 3 CCR § 3899 for the list of regulated agricultural and vegetable seed kinds.

### **Who must register with the CDFA?**

Any labeler or any person selling vegetable or agricultural seed in California must register annually (FAC 52351). Persons with an existing nursery license are exempt, unless they are labeling seed. Packets of seed of 4oz or less do not need to be included in assessment fees (FAC 52354 (b)). Refer to the CDFA's Seed Services Program web page for more information on registration and assessment, including fees and forms.

Labeler: any person whose name and address appears on the label pertaining to or attached to a lot or container of agricultural and/or vegetable seed for sale (FAC 52254.5).



### **California Department of Food and Agriculture Plant Health Pest Prevention Services**

#### **Seed Services Program**

1220 N Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

916-403-6715

[seedservices@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:seedservices@cdfa.ca.gov)

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/seed/>

### **Plant Pest Diagnostic Center Seed Science Laboratory**

<http://cdfa.ca.gov/plant/PPD/seed.html>

3294 Meadowview Rd, Suite 253

Sacramento, CA 95832

916-262-1100

