



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

# Selling and Labeling Vegetable Seed for Farm Use



**Farm** is a place of agricultural production which has annual sales of agricultural products of \$1,000 or more (FAC 52262).

7/2023

**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)

- 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).
- Commonly accepted name of kind and variety of seed.
- 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 test date must not exceed 8 months at resale and 15 months at retail (FAC 52481).
  - Hermetically sealed containers must include the phrase “Seed has been preconditioned as to moisture content.” and “Container is hermetically sealed.” The phrase “Germination test valid until (month, year)” may be used. Test date must not exceed 18 months at resale and 36 months at retail. (FAC 52481, 3 CCR § 3864)
- Mediation notice (found in 3 CCR § 3915.1) (FAC 52456, 3 CCR § 3867).

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.

Container ½lb or less:

## Verdant Globe Artichoke

Superior Stems Inc.  
Stemsonton, CA 98789



Notice arbitration/conciliation/mediation required by several states under the seed laws of several states, arbitration, mediation or conciliation is required as a prerequisite to maintaining a legal action based upon the failure of seed to which this notice is attached to produce as represented. The consumer shall file a complaint along with the required filing fee (where applicable) with the Designated State Authority within such time as to permit inspection of the crops, plants or trees by the designated agency and the seedman from whom the seed was purchased. A copy of the complaint shall be sent to the seller by certified or registered mail or as otherwise provided by state statute.

Container over ½lb:



## Burgundy Crisp Radish

Lot: NVM56-2B Germ Test Date: 8/2/22  
Radish Corp. 222 Randall Ln, Rensville, CA 92229

**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

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Container over ½lb, below-standard germination:

## Carrot, Variety Francisco

Germination 50% - 8/22 - Below Standard  
Lot: 878787

Crisp Carrot Company • Greenston, CA 91919



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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 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

