

Seed Test Date Information

The Nebraska Seed Law has four categories relating to the required test dates on seed labels. This sheet is intended to be a reference for labelers and retailers to understand when test dates expire. Please contact the NDA Seed Program if you have any questions at 402-471-2351.

1) Native* (means any grass, sedge, rush, or forb indigenous to North America prior to European settlement)

- 12-month test date (seed must have been tested within 12 months)
- Examples: big bluestem, little bluestem, indian grass, sideoats grama, buffalograss, echinacea, partridge pea, wild bergamot, etc.

2) Nonnative* (means any grass, sedge, rush, or forb not indigenous to North America prior to European settlement)

- 9-month test date (seed must have been tested within 9 months)
- Examples: Corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, alfalfa, radishes, clovers, oats, smooth brome, annual ryegrass, millet, etc.

*This website can be used to help determine native vs nonnative status: plants.usda.gov

3) Cool-season lawn and turf grass in packages of 50 lbs. or less

Must include a test date as described above or a 15-month sell by date is allowed in place of a test date

Examples of cool-season turf species: kentucky bluegrass, red fescue, chewings fescue, hard fescue, tall fescue, perennial rye grass, intermediate rye grass, annual rye grass, colonial bentgrass, and creeping bentgrass, etc.

4) Vegetable and flower seeds in containers prepared for use in home gardens or household plantings

Must include a test date as described above or "Packed for (year)"