

Labeling Seed for Home Gardeners in Minnesota

Seed offered for sale for use in home gardens and packaged in containers that weigh less than 1 lb. have specific labeling requirements in the Minnesota Seed Law (Minnesota Statutes 21.82). Vegetables, herbs, flowers, wildflowers, and cannabis may be packaged for home use and must be labeled with the following information:

- Kind and Variety must be listed with certain exceptions for flower seed.
 - If the seed is a “blend” of varieties or a “mixture” of kinds, it must be identified as such on the label.
 - In Minnesota *Cannabis sativa* will be labeled either as hemp or cannabis/marijuana depending on the Total THC % expressed at the adult stage for that variety. The labeler can use either cannabis or marijuana as the kind when plants are expected to produce a Total THC % is greater than 0.3%.
- Lot number
- Net weight of the contents or number of seeds in the container
- The year the seed was packed for sale if the germination percentage exceeds the standard established by rule. For below standard germinations, the actual germination percentage and the date of test must be listed. A “sell by” date may be listed along with or in lieu of the “packed for” date but it may not exceed the test date by more than twelve months excluding the month of test.
- The name and address of the labeler. The address includes the street or PO Box, City, State, and ZIP code.
- If the seed is treated the name of the substance applied and the words “Do not use for food, feed, or oil purposes” must be included on the label.

Seed Packets Must be Tested and Meet Minimum Standards

Any lot labeled for home use must be tested for purity, Minnesota noxious weeds, and germination. The labeler may be allowed to have less information on the label IF the lot meets specific standards for labeling.

The following information typically required on a label may be omitted with the following conditions:

1. Origin may be omitted, but a record of the origin must be maintained
2. Germination percentage may be omitted if the seed germinates at or above the minimum standard for that kind
3. Pure seed percentage may be omitted if the percentage is greater than 90%
4. Weed seed percentage may be omitted if there are no weed seeds present in the lot, otherwise the percentage weed seed should be identified
5. Noxious weed seeds may be omitted from the label if they are not present in the lot, otherwise they should be identified by name and #/lb
6. Other crop percentage may be omitted from the label if it is less than 5%
7. Inert matter percentage may be omitted from the label if it is less than 10%

Minimum standards for germination can be found in the Federal Seed Act for Vegetable seed and in the Recommended Uniform State Seed Law for all other kinds of seed. If no minimum standard is established, the minimum germination is 50%.

Template Label of a Seed Packet for Home Gardeners

The label below is an example IF seed testing results demonstrate that minimum standards are met.

Kind:	Variety:
Lot Number:	Net Weight or Number of Seeds:
Packed for [Year] <i>(Expires on 12/31 of the year stated)</i>	Sell by [Month/Year] <i>(Optional)</i>
Labeler's Name:	Address:
City and State:	Zip Code:

Contact us

Seed Regulatory Program

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In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.