

# Seed certification

## Seed information

Sow

Seed certification is an industry programme to ensure cultivar identity. It is run by AsureQuality for the New Zealand Seeds Authority (NZSA).

## What does certified seed mean?

A crop must be grown to specific standards (e.g. to grow 4front the paddock must have been free from any other ryegrass for at least the previous two seasons). This eliminates the risk of contamination.

Each paddock has an ID, with data relating to seed certification held in a geospatial information system. A crop must pass a field inspection of crop purity by AsureQuality staff before harvest.



*During the certification process seed crops - like this Kotuku white clover crop at Methven - are regularly inspected by AsureQuality.*

After harvest, cleaning and packaging, the resultant seed is tested by the National Seed Laboratory and must be of sufficient purity (e.g. for perennial ryegrass of first generation a minimum of 98% pure seed and a maximum 0.7% other seed).

Full guidelines for certification requirements are available from the National Seed Laboratory. (See also seed analysis certificates.)

***Seed analysis certificates are available on request for all certified 1st Generation cultivars.***

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