



CEREAL SEED CERTIFICATION

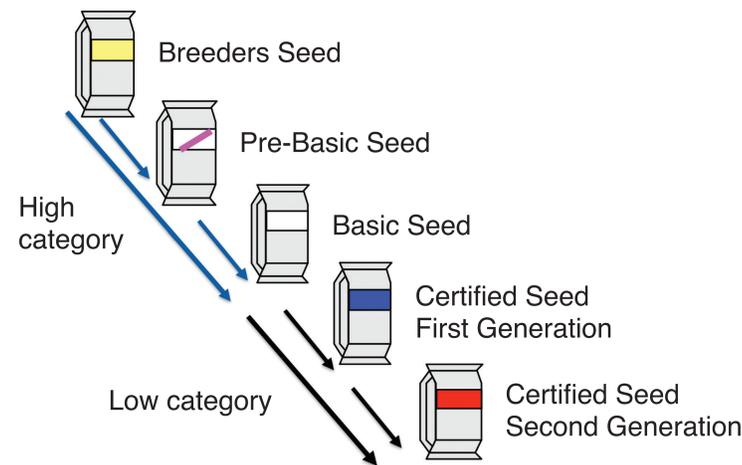
To market agricultural seed it must be officially certified to ensure certain standards of purity and germination. Seed marketing standards are based on EU Directives implemented in England by the Seed Marketing Regulations.

Seed certification is a generation, management and tracking system operated by NIAB, under contract to APHA, and underpinned by the Seed Marketing Regulations (Figure 1). It provides quality assurance and consumer protection, through a management and tracking system using documentary control and official monitoring of crops and seed lots. Impartiality and confidentiality for the companies involved is paramount.

A sample of each multiplication generation seed lot entered for certification in England and Wales is sown into plots at NIAB. During the growing season NIAB's Agricultural Crop Characterisation team assesses approximately 2,500 cereal plots for varietal identity and purity. The findings from these plots provide important information regarding the purity of seed lots and an insight into potential problems that may be present in current crops.

All malting barley is produced from a certified seed crop.

Figure 1. The statutory generation system



5050 aleurone segregation in hybrid barley



Divergent and parallel sterile spikelets



Anthocyanin pigmentation



Deficiens sterile spikelets



Non-deficiens sterile spikelets