



SAMPLING PROTOCOL FOR GERMINATION TESTING

This season, CSD will be providing all Agents with a service allowing germination testing of both growers' and Agents' seed, held either on farm or in retail outlets. As part of this service, only Agents can submit samples for testing.

CSD will provide Agents with a kit containing: the sampling protocol, sample bags, labels (to apply to sampling holes in bags) and a sample spear to allow sampling to be carried out by Agents.

It is essential that sampling is conducted as outlined below, and all information requested is supplied. Samples will not be tested until the completed information is provided.

It is important to have carryover seed tested each season because seed is a living organism. Over time, some seeds can die and germination will decline. During storage, exposure to high temperatures and humidity can accelerate this loss of quality. Therefore, the style and standard of storage influences the rate of quality decline. For example, seed stored in basic shipping containers sitting out in the open, or in farm sheds close to a western wall, can be subjected to extreme temperatures during summer, resulting in a significant loss of quality.

The volume of new product from the CSD production lines, which is tested prior to dispatch to Agents, climbs exponentially from August onwards. As a result, the CSD Laboratory which conducts the germination tests becomes extremely busy during this period.

For this reason, it is important that samples for retesting are received at CSD prior to mid August - otherwise they may face lengthy delays in processing. As it is, the testing procedure involves a ten day cycle as a minimum. May - June is the ideal time for these samples to be arriving at CSD.

The following guidelines for sampling and packaging will help ensure that you have confidence in the seed test results;

- Sample correctly with the sampling spear supplied, according to the intensity outlined in Table 1. Poor sampling affects the likelihood of achieving repeatable results.
- Using the supplied seed sampler, randomly sample the required bags by inserting the spear (with the angle facing down) into each bag. When inserted, rotate the spear so that the angle is facing up. Withdraw the spear slowly and capture the seed in a bag or container. Place a supplied "Sampled by CSD Agent" sticker over each hole.
- Mix the pooled samples well and take a subsample of approximately 200 grams to be submitted to CSD for testing.
- This 200 gram sample needs to be handled and packaged correctly. Ideally, the seed should be placed in the supplied calico bag/s (or a snap lock bag with all the air expelled) and placed inside a small box or container surrounded by padding for protection.
- Do not supply seed in any other type of containers/packaging (see below for examples of incorrectly packaged seed).
- Avoid having the sample sitting in the sun in a vehicle for any length of time.
- Label correctly with: Agent contact details, grower name, seed variety and treatment, AUS Lot number and date of sampling.
- A separate sample is required for each variety and Aus Lot.

Note: Results provided relate to the sample submitted; it is important to ensure the sample represents the seed required to be tested by subsampling from a cross section of bags.

| No. of bags | Sampling intensity |
|--------------|---|
| 1 to 20 bags | Subsample from every bag |
| 21-300 bags | Subsample from 20 bags, or 1 in every 4, whichever is greater |

Table 1: Suggested sampling intensity for germination testing of farm stored seed.

For further information contact

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| John Galagher | Customer Service | 0428 950 036 |
| Kimberley Haverhoek | Laboratory Supervisor | (02) 6795 0000 |

Attention your samples to **CSD Seeds Lab** and send to either:

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| Cotton Seed Distributors "Shenstone" Culgoora Road Wee Waa NSW 2388 | Cotton Seed Distributors P.O. Box 117 Wee Waa NSW 2388 |
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Seed stored in Ammonium Sulphate bag.



Seed stored in Coke bottle.