



Enhancing Value, Improving Marketability

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CERTIFIED SEED OR CERTIFIED ORGANIC SEED - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Seed in the marketplace may be offered for sale as *certified seed*, *certified organic seed* or as *certified seed that is also certified organic*. This can be confusing to seed buyers that don't understand what the certification claims and markings mean.

- **Certified Seed** has met designated seed certification standards related to its qualities for seed use.
- **Certified Organic Seed** was produced according to the National Organic Program standards.
- **Certified Seed that is also Certified Organic** has met the standards for both certification programs.

Buyers need to look for certification markings and require other proof of certification to know whether seed has been certified and to which certification standard.

Certified Seed



Certification marking:

- Certification label (bagged seed)
- Bulk Seed Sale Certificate (bulk seed)

Regulatory basis:

- Federal and state seed laws

Certified by:

- Official state seed certification agency

Provides assurance of:

- Varietal identity
- Varietal purity
- Germination

and restricts:

- Weed seed
- Other crop seed
- Inert matter

Certified Organic Seed



Certification marking:

- USDA Organic logo
- Package or label should indicate the seed is organic and identify the name of the organic certifier.
- Organic certificate from seller
- Transaction certificate from seller

Regulatory basis:

- National Organic Program

Certified by:

- USDA accredited organic certification agency

Provides assurance that the seed:

- Was produced organically
- Is not genetically modified
- Has not been treated with prohibited seed treatments