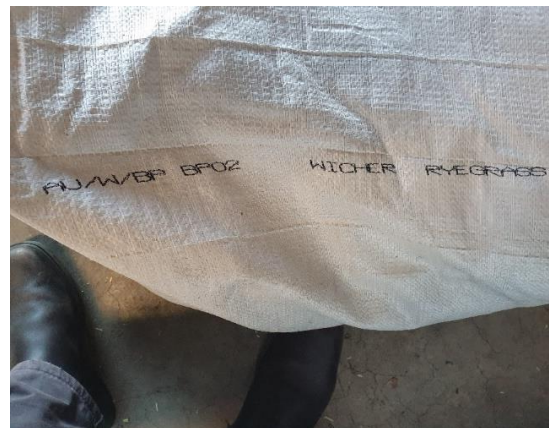


Understanding the Seed Bag Tag

Seed bag labels

Certified seed will have the line/reference number on the tag and/or bag, which can be quoted when seeking seed information from your seed provider (see Pictures 1 to 3). The official seed certificate can be obtained through your seed provider and is generated by seed testing laboratory and certification body, which is accredited by the International Seed Testing Authority (ISTA) and/or the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA). Some information such as purity of seed, packing date, species, and source of the product may also be included on the tag, but rarely the tested germination rate.



Pictures 1 to 3: Types of seed bag labels and product information

Picture 4: Western Dairy germination test harvest. One hundred seeds from each annual ryegrass varieties or brands were germinated, cut and counted at the end of the 10-18 days testing period.

Western Dairy Germination Test

Western Dairy undertook a germination test of commercialised ryegrass varieties and brands in Western Australia in April 2019. One hundred seeds from each seed line were set on a wet paper towel with a temperature of 22 °C for 10 to 18 days in a non-laboratory environment (see picture 4). The minimum *pass* rate of germination is 85%, as an acceptable standard of certified seed. Three seed lines failed in two consecutive tests and were sent to an accredited laboratory for an independent test. Two of the seeds successfully germinated there while one seed failed all testing (see Table 1).

The ‘wet paper towel germination test’ is a simple way to determine seed quality and can assist your seed selection before you invest and plant!

Table 1. WD annual ryegrass seed germination test result and data from seed certificates.

Variety	Seed company	Line number	Certified germination result	WD test (%)			Lab test (%)
				1st 10 days	2nd 10 days	18 days	11 days
Abundant	Irwin & Hunter	ABT1963D	6 days 88%, 15 days 93%	70	77	80	92
Amass (+poncho +awaken)	Landmark	AUS/A/8VLS057/2APA	5 days 95%	95			
Ascend	PGG Wrightson	AUS/S/FW500WL	7 days 97%	97			
Astro	PGG Wrightson	L14-18-114T	10 days 94%	96			
Attain	Landmark	L172-18-AT14	7 days 97%	93			
Concord II	PGG Wrightson	JCA227WL	5 days 97%, 10 days 97%	98			
Hogan	Heritage	8HTSO59/9	10 days 98%	86	91	91	
Oretet	Seedforce	L141-18-OT67	14 days 88%	77	81	81	90
Vortex	Heritage	AUS/A/HS9044	10 days 96%	88			
Wicher	Bells	AU/W/BP BP02	10 days 91%	71	73	74	78
Wimmera	Irwin & Hunter	V3418267	5 days 99%	79	88	92	