

# THE BENEFITS OF CERTIFIED SEED

Certified seed passes through rigorous field inspection and testing that ensures:

- Minimized weed seed contamination
- Minimized seed-borne disease
- Verification of the identity of variety stated on the tag
- Known germination percentages



In Texas, Texas Department of Agriculture, TDA, inspects seed production fields to ensure genetic purity and identity.

## Benefits & Risks: Choosing Certified Seed

choosing certified seed eliminates many of the risks associated with "brown bagging."

### BENEFITS

- Purity that ensures consistent homogeneity and performance
- Higher yield potential
- Better stand and biomass for grazing
- Higher end-use quality
- Lower disease incidence
- Lower incidence of weeds
- Newer varieties with superior yield, stress resistance, and improved quality

### RISKS

- Few to none

## "Brown Bagging" poses risks and can be costly to farmers

While it might seem that farmers can save money by keeping and growing their own seed year to year, the costs and risks of replanting "brown bagged" seed are great. Research shows that farmers who purchase certified seed annually stand to earn more due to the increased yield and forage advantage of the purer seed.

## Benefits & Risks: "Brown Bagging"

Greater risk comes with brown-bagged seeds being untested for purity, viability, or vigor.

### BENEFITS

- Lower upfront seed costs for planting
- No advance seed booking

### RISKS

- Reduced yields
- Increased input costs
- Reduced end-use quality
- Cost of storage
- Mixed seed varieties
- Weed seeds
- Poorer quality seed condition
- Lower germination percentages
- Decreased seedling vigor
- Longer stand establishment
- Smaller seed size
- Lower forage and grain yields
- Higher seeding rates

## "Brown Bagging" creates detrimental impact to industry

The process of developing new plant varieties includes selecting parents with desirable attributes, crossing them, selecting potential new varieties, field evaluations, and yield trials. Purification, seed multiplication, and production follow, culminating in a commitment of time, cost, and labor resources that can span 12 to 15 years, according to CropLife International.

U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics show that the U.S. wheat seed industry alone loses up to \$677 million per year to brown bagging.

About 10% of seed sales and royalties are typically reinvested into plant breeding each year. This means the development of new varieties misses out on as much as \$68 million per year in reinvestment due to brown bagging, according to the Seed Innovation & Protection Alliance, SIPA.

The development of new, superior varieties is increasingly important in the face of ever-changing growing conditions that threaten reduced water resources, higher temperatures, and increasing disease pressure.

See or suspect seed piracy?



[ipc.agrilife.org/ipprotection](http://ipc.agrilife.org/ipprotection)

Visit for more information about protecting intellectual property from Texas A&M AgriLife



# THE LAWS ON "BROWN BAGGING"

## Selling and trading protected seed is illegal

The Plant Variety Protection Act (PVPA) bars growers, elevators, and seed cleaners (conditioners) from selling or trading protected varieties of seed without authorization of the PVPA certificate owner - a practice known as brown bagging.

## Consequences

The PVPA allows that all parties involved in the unauthorized trade of protected seed may be held liable. Liable parties can include the seller, the buyer, the seed cleaner, and others involved, including custom farming operators.

## PVPA-protected seed use is allowed for limited purposes on the original purchaser's farm

Although the practice poses many potential drawbacks, the Plant Variety Protection Act allows farmers to grow and keep seed from PVP-protected varieties for use on their own farms, but in such case farmers should ensure that such variety is not also protected by some other form of intellectual property, such as patents, or contracts that may not allow such use.



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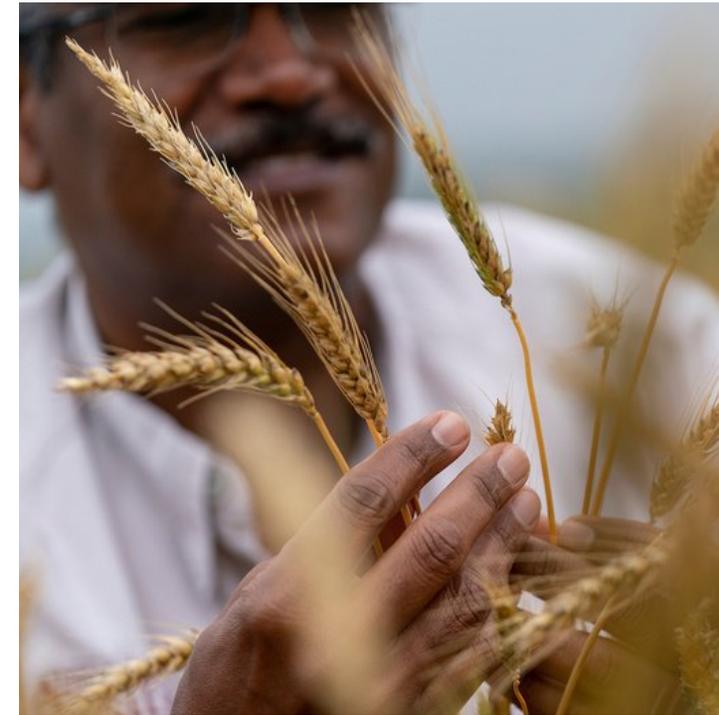
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## CERTIFIED SEED & THE LAWS ON "BROWN BAGGING"

Information about saving seeds  
for farmers & industry

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