Are you considering reseeding a pasture, planting a lawn, or a crop?

The label or tag that comes with a bag of turfgrass or crop seed contains a great deal of information to help you select quality seed that will germinate, grow, and meet your goals. Wyoming consumers can purchase seed and know exactly what they are buying as a result of U.S. and state seed laws. The label contains information on cultivar, purity, germination percentage, crop seed, weed seed, inert material, noxious weeds, net weight, lot number, and date tested. The data on the label comes from samples tested in independent laboratories such as the Wyoming Seed Analysis Laboratory at the Powell Research and Extension Center.

- **Cultivar** – crop variety/product name
- **Pure seed** – percent by weight of the particular cultivar seed in the bag. Higher percentages are better.
- **Crop** – this number represents “other” seed that is mixed with the desired cultivar. High-quality turfgrass seed should contain no other crop seed – or at most 1 percent.
- **Germination** – the percent of pure seed that germinates under ideal conditions. Higher percentages are better. “Germination” means the emergence and development from the seed embryo of essential structures indicative of the ability to produce a normal plant under favorable conditions.


**14 Barnyards & Backyards**

**Example:**

You have a 10-pound bag of seed. Planting recommendations are for 5 lbs of pure live seed (PLS – seed that will germinate) per 1,000 square feet. Pure seed is 94.6% and germination is 88%. Do you have enough seed? The goal is to calculate how many pounds of PLS are in that 10 lb bag. You may need more than one bag to cover your square footage. Calculating PLS also allows you to select the best buy in terms of pounds of PLS per dollar spent.

To calculate PLS, multiply the percent germination by the percent purity. In the example above it would be:

\[
0.88 \times 0.946 = 0.832 \text{ or } 83.2\% \text{ PLS in the 10-lb bag.}
\]

10 lbs. \(\times\) 0.832 = 8.32 lbs PLS in the bag

To find how much you need from the original bag, you will calculate the ratio 8.32 lbs PLS/10 pounds = 5 lbs PLS/\(\times\) lbs. \(\times\)=6, so six pounds of the original bag of seed are needed for 1,000 square feet.

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This provision ensures that 50 percent of the mixture is a cool-season grass and most likely to succeed in our region.

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