

# Directive

9120.1

March 14, 2025

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## **THE COLLECTION AND USE OF WHEAT VARIETY TYPE SAMPLES**

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## 1. PURPOSE

This directive establishes procedures to collect, classify, use, and maintain wheat variety “type samples.” These variety-pure samples are used by official inspection personnel as a reference to properly identify wheat varieties and classes grown in the United States.

## 2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive supersedes Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) Program Directive 9120.1 dated May 1, 1997. This directive is updated to reflect organizational changes, responsibilities, and provides additional clarification.

## 3. POLICY

Variety type samples will be collected, classified, maintained, and used by Field Offices, Agencies, and the Board of Appeals and Review (BAR) according to procedures in this directive. Using type samples will help official inspection personnel classify wheat correctly and provide the grain industry with more uniform and accurate inspection results under the [Official U.S. Standards for Wheat](#).

## 4. BACKGROUND

New varieties are constantly being developed and introduced. However, varieties belonging to different classes are often used in developing new varieties which may not always have the physical characteristics traditionally used by official inspection personnel to classify wheat. Thus, it is important to have samples of varieties having similar physical or morphological characteristics for each class of wheat.

Official inspection personnel will be able to maintain proficiency in assigning the correct class to wheat samples by using the variety type samples as an interpretative reference.

## 5. COLLECTION, CLASSIFICATION, AND USE OF TYPE SAMPLES

- a. Field Office and Agency Responsibilities. Inspection personnel licensed or authorized to grade wheat must be able to recognize the different varieties and classes of wheat marketed within the geographical area for which the field office or agency has responsibility.

Wheat variety type samples will be available to help train and assist inspection personnel with this requirement and will be assembled as follows:

- (1) Each crop year the BAR, with the cooperation of field offices and agencies, collects at least 3 – 5 pounds (minimum of 1,500 grams) of as many wheat varieties as possible currently grown or marketed within each geographical area. As new varieties are introduced, the same requirements will apply.

All samples will be certified as pure seed. Only untreated wheat is used for variety type samples.

Inspection personnel are encouraged to seek cooperation from county extension agents, colleges, universities, seed companies, producers, and the grain industry to collect complete sets of wheat variety type samples. State universities or seed companies can usually provide a list of certified seed producers.

- (2) Official inspection personnel collecting the samples should note relevant information on the varieties, such as pedigree, acreage planted, and production of the variety compared to the total wheat produced in the area and submit this along with the type samples.
  - (3) Field Offices and Agencies must maintain wheat libraries according to this directive and make them available to their inspectors. Field Office libraries may be maintained at individual elevator locations (i.e. duty points) as determined by the Field Office Manager (FOM). Agency libraries may be maintained at individual elevator and/or office locations as determined by the Agency Manager. When the FOM or Agency Manager determines a wheat library is to be maintained at a specified location, the wheat library at that location must be kept up to date in accordance with this directive.
  - (4) Inspection personnel licensed or authorized to grade wheat must be trained to identify wheat classes and be informed of new varieties as they appear in the region.
  - (5) Wheat varieties listed on the [National Agricultural Statistics Service \(NASS\)](#) website can be used for each participating state as a guide for determining the top planted varieties grown. Click the corresponding state, Cooperative Projects, and Wheat Varieties for the yearly report. Climatic conditions and differences in geographic areas may cause differences in varietal characteristics so a sample of each variety should accompany the list if possible.
- b. Board of Appeals and Review Responsibilities. The BAR is responsible for determining the class of each variety collected and distributing the applicable varieties to Field Offices and Agencies. The BAR classification will prevail for all official inspection purposes even when the class assigned by the BAR does not agree with that of the wheat breeder.
- (1) The BAR will determine the correct classification of all varieties collected and inform the field offices and agencies.
  - (2) Every year when varieties are made available, the BAR, with the cooperation of field offices, will distribute approximately 50 grams of each new variety type for each Field Office and Agency in a region to be used as a guide in variety determination along with any varieties that may be more difficult to distinguish.

## 6. MAINTENANCE OF TYPE SAMPLES

Field Offices and Agencies will retain and properly maintain type samples in suitable clear glass or clear plastic bottles (approximately 2-ounce capacity).



**FIGURE 1.1 – 2-OUNCE GLASS BOTTLES EXAMPLE**

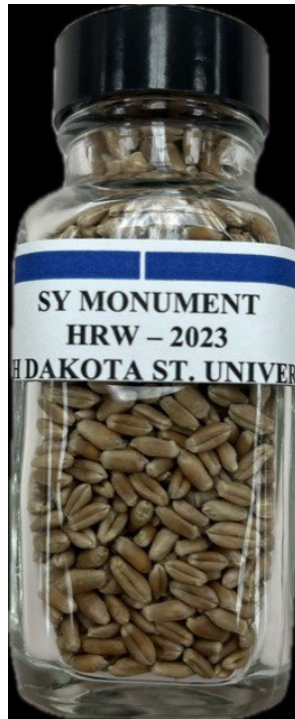
To preserve the wheat and prevent against insect infestation and damage, place a mothball in each variety bottle. Due to limited quantities and availability of variety samples, it may not be possible to replace samples that were stored improperly.

Identify each sample with a label (provided by FGIS), color coded as follows:

Hard Red Winter wheat – Blue  
Durum wheat – Green  
Soft Red Winter wheat – Yellow  
Soft White wheat – Black  
Hard White wheat – Orange  
Hard Red Spring wheat – Red

The label must include the name of the variety, name of the class, crop year, and who provided the sample.

**Example:** Sy Monument                      Code: Blue  
                  HRW, 2023  
                  North Dakota State University



**FIGURE 1.2 – LABELED HRW BOTTLE EXAMPLE**

## **7. QUESTIONS**

Direct any questions concerning wheat varieties and labels to the BAR and any questions concerning policy to Policies and Procedures.

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