



Why to choose certified seed



Challenge

Many farmers purchase certified seed for planting and then save harvested seed for two or more consecutive years before buying fresh seed. The challenge with this method is that the further removed saved seed is from the original certified seed variety, the greater the risks of:

- Varietal impurity
- Poor seed germination
- Diseased seed
- Volunteer crops and weeds

The initial cost of saving seed is lower than certified seed but doing so may lead to a need to purchase more seed and/or apply more crop protection products if the saved seed doesn't perform as well as hoped.

Solution

Certified seed is defined as seed that has passed an inspection and seed quality testing process regulated by government agencies and that it meets specified variety standards. Planting certified seed varieties helps ensure:

- Genetic purity
- Smoother plantability
- Seedling vigor
- Improved germination and emergence

Research has shown that certified seed varieties consistently outperform saved seed in **yield, quality and test weight.**

- Certified wheat seed has a yield premium of 3 bu/A over bin-run seed.¹
- In a study, certified seed resulted in a \$6.75 per acre return over the cost of the seed.¹

AgriPro® brand wheat varieties from Syngenta provide:

- Consistent performance and quality under varying conditions
- Compliance with certified seed regulations
- Locally bred varieties to address regional production needs

¹Source: Georgia Crop Improvement Association Small Grain Drill Box Survey

GROWmore
wheat

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Farmer Saved vs. Certified Seed

Item	Cost	Example
Farmer saved grain	_____ \$/Bu	\$5/Bu
Storage/interest	_____ \$/Bu	\$0.20/Bu
Cleaning	_____ \$/Bu	\$0.75/Bu
Clean out	_____ \$/Bu	\$0.50/Bu
Handling—in and out	_____ \$/Bu	\$0.30/Bu
Total	_____ \$/Bu	\$6.75/Bu
Average Seeding Rate	_____ Bu/A	1.4 Bu/A
Farmer saved—total cost	_____ \$/A	\$9.45/A
Certified seed cost	_____ \$/Bu	\$10/Bu
Average seeding rate	_____ Bu/A	1.2 Bu/A
Certified seed investment	_____ \$/A	\$12/A
Difference between farmer saved and certified seed cost	_____ \$/A	\$2.55/A
Yield advantage certified seed	_____ Bu/A	3 Bu/A*
Grain price	_____ \$/Bu	\$5/Bu
Gross return extra Bu/A	_____ \$/A	\$15.00/A
Net return per acre to Certified Seed	_____ \$/A	\$12.45/A

*Average yield advantage from Certified Seed

Saved seed isn't free. Use this worksheet to calculate the true cost for saved seed. Your own costs may vary, but consider the example costs used here as a guideline.

Bin-run seed consistently underperforms compared to certified seed. Research has shown that certified seed varieties consistently outperform saved seed in yield, quality and test weight.

Using certified seed every crop season provides the best opportunity to maximize the yield potential of the variety.