

## FIELD CROPS

### Standards of Perfection for Field Crops

The following score-cards are arranged as a standard for judging field crops. The explanation of points is provided to guide the exhibitor in selecting a sample for exhibit. The size of sample (weight or number) of each exhibit is suggested as a guide to fair officials in setting forth prize lists. Exhibitors should carefully read and comply with the rules and regulations of the fair in making up an entry.

#### Field-Crop Seeds

Includes seeds of: Wheat, oats, triticale, barley, and rye. Spelt, flax, canola, buckwheat, grasses, legumes, field corn, field peas, field root crop seed, field beans including soybeans, sunflower, safflower and others such as Kamut and Quinoa.

Small grain and flax exhibit to be 15 pounds (6.75 kg)

Forage-crop, field-root, and other exhibits to be 5 pounds (2.25 kg)

#### Score-Card

	Points
Freedom from foreign material.....	40
Maturity and soundness .....	30
Plumpness and uniformity .....	15
General appearance (colour, luster, etc.) .....	15

#### Explanation of Points

**Freedom from Foreign Material** - All samples of seed should be free of all weed seeds, other crop seeds, and inert matter such as straw, chaff, and dirt. Weed seeds and other crop seeds are particularly objectionable as they detract from the value of the sample for seeding purposes.

The sample must also be pure as to variety. In the case of certified or registered seed, a crop inspection certificate should accompany the sample.

**Maturity and Soundness** – Seed should be well ripened, as indicated by the absence of green and shrunken kernels. Sample must be dry, cool, and sweet. Seed must be free from moulds and mustiness, and free from all diseases, insect-injury, and cracked and broken kernels. The hull of oats, barley, grasses, and other hulled seeds should be intact. Awns should be carefully removed without damage to the hull. Frosted and sprouted kernels are objectionable.

**Plumpness and Uniformity** – Seed should be plump and well filled, indicating high viability. Seeds in the sample should be uniform in size and plumpness. The sample should at least equal the legal standard for the crop in weight per measured bushel.

**General Appearance** – The sample should be attractive. Seed should be bright in colour and uniform in size and appearance. It should be free from damage and impurities. Exhibit only current year's seed, as old seed becomes dull and lacks luster.

**Corn and Sunflowers for Silage**  
(Each exhibit to be 6 stalks)

Score-Card

	Points
Stage of maturity.....	30
Size and uniformity.....	25
General quality.....	25
Soundness .....	20

**Explanation of Points**

**Maturity** – to make the highest-quality silage, corn should be in the dough or glaze stage, and sunflowers should be cut at the early bloom stage before the heads have set seed. There should be only very little browning in the lower leaves of corn or sunflowers at this stage.

**Size and Uniformity** – All things being equal, tallest and most vigorous plants indicate a heavy yield. The plants should show uniformity in size of stalks and height. They should be uniform in development of ears or heads, in leafiness and maturity. They should conform to the general type.

**General Quality** – Ears of corn should be well filled, uniform in size and shape. Kernels should be in uniform rows and fit closely together and carried well through to the butt and tip. Stalks should not be too coarse and should contain a good proportion of leaves.

**Soundness** – Ears (or heads) and stalks should be firm and free from disease and insect-injury. Kernels of corn should be bright in colour. Frost damage, especially in the kernel, is objectionable.

**Field Roots for Feeding**  
(Each exhibit to be 3 roots)

Score-Card

	Points
Texture and quality .....	40
Size and uniformity.....	30
Smoothness .....	20
Trueness to type .....	10

### Explanation of Points

**Texture and Quality** – The flesh should be firm, crisp, and close-grained. The roots should be free from hollow crowns, deep coarse necks, bruises, and disease or other injury that will detract from the keeping and feeding quality.

**Size and Uniformity** – Unless size is specifically called for in the class, oversized roots are often as objectionable as small roots. Coarse overgrown roots are often low in dry matter and general quality. Roots should be good size, however, to indicate a good yield. The roots should be uniform in size and appearance.

**Smoothness** – Roots should be smooth and symmetrical without coarse crowns, prongs, split roots, or cracks. Samples with scars from removed prongs should be scored down. Roots should not be excessively trimmed.

**Trueness to Type** – The roots should be reasonably uniform in colour, size, and shape, and conform to the type, which the variety represents (globe, ovoid, tankard, long, intermediate, etc.).

### Baled Hay (Alfalfa, Clover, Grass, Cereal, and Mixed Hay) (One bale of approximately 50 pounds) (22.5 kg)

#### Score-Card

	Points
Stage of maturity.....	30
Freedom from foreign material.....	20
Leafiness, soundness, and curing.....	40
General appearance.....	10

### Explanation of Points

**Stage of Maturity** – The stage of maturity when a crop is cut for hay is a major factor influencing the feeding value to be expected. Alfalfa and sweet clover should show very little bloom in the hay. Clovers (except sweet clover) should show some bloom (about one-third), but without seed formation in the head. Grasses should be fully headed, but before flowering. Cereals should be in the soft dough stage.

**Freedom from Foreign Material** – The sample should be free from weeds, dirt, old stubble, and from other crop plants (except mixed hay).

**Leafiness, Soundness, and Curing** – the hay should contain a high percentage of leaves; stems should be few and fine, soft and pliable. It should be dry and free from excess moisture. The sample should have a bright-green fresh colour and have a fresh aroma. It should be free of mould or mustiness or excessive heating. Hay that is discolored by weathering or overcuring is inferior in feeding value and palatability.

**General Appearance** – The bale should be compact, neat, and securely bound. The weight should be indicated on the bale.

### **Sheaves (Wheat, oats, Barley, Rye, Flax)**

#### **Score-Card**

	Points
Maturity and filling of head .....	30
Freedom from foreign material .....	30
Soundness and luster .....	25
Neatness .....	15

#### **Explanation of Points**

**Maturity and Filling** – The grain must be fully matured, as indicated by plump, hard kernels, and absence of greenness in the straw and chaff. The heads should be well filled and should not show signs of shattering.

**Freedom from Foreign Material** – The sheaf must be free from weeds or other crop plants. The sheaf should contain only plants of the same variety as indicated by the colour of straw and chaff, shape of head, presence or absence of awns, etc.

**Soundness and Luster** – The straw and grain must be dry, free from mould or mustiness, and be bright in appearance. There should be no indication of disease, such as rust, smut, or insect-injury. The straw and grain should not show any frost damage or excess weathering.

**Neatness** – As exhibits of sheaves add to the general attractiveness of any field-crop display, it is desirable that they be well selected and attractively displayed. Heads should be uniform and should be arranged so that they form a neat, compact bunch. The sheaf should be tied tightly to prevent skewing – one tie just below the heads and at least one further tie near the butt of the straw. Ties may be covered with bands of ribbon to add to the general appearance. The sheaf should be a minimum of 3 inches (7.62 cm) in diameter just below the head. Leaves may be removed from the straw before tying to make a more attractive sheaf. The straw should be cut as long as possible to indicate the height of the crop, and the butt should be neatly trimmed.

### **Collection of Forage-Crops**

#### **Score-Card**

	Points
Number of varieties and naming .....	25
Utility .....	25
Quality .....	30
Neatness and arrangement .....	20

### Explanation of Points

**Number of Varieties and Naming** – Unless otherwise stated, the collection should consist of six different species of plants commonly grown for forage purposes. Each variety should be correctly named with either the common or scientific designation.

**Utility** – The collection should represent forage-crops of considerable economic importance, especially within the district. Unimportant or weedy forage species should be discriminated against in the scoring.

**Quality** – The plants in the exhibit should be free from diseases, insect attack, or other damage. They should possess a fresh, bright colour and be well cured. They should show good growth and should be cut at the proper stage of maturity. (See Baled Hay)

**Neatness and Arrangement** – Each species of alfalfa, grass, or cereal in the forage collection should be tied in a neat sheaf. Sheaves of cereals should be 3 inches (7.62 cm) in diameter just below the head. Sheaves of grasses should be 2 inches (5.08 cm) in diameter just below the head. Sheaves of alfalfa and clovers should be approximately 3 inches (7.62 cm) in diameter. All sheaves should be tied tightly to prevent skewing – one tie just below the head and at least one more near the butt. Six stalks, and roots by three specimens should represent crops such as corn and sunflowers. Varieties should be attractively arranged and name-cards neatly displayed.

### Commercial Potatoes (Table Stock) (Sample to be 12 tubers)

#### Score-Card

	Points
Freedom from disease .....	20
Freedom from mechanical and other injury .....	25
Uniformity, size, and trueness to variety .....	25
Maturity, quality, and texture of flesh .....	20
Attractiveness and general appearance .....	10

### Explanation of Points

**Freedom from Disease** – The sample should be free from both internal and external disease. Cross-section of the stem-end should show no discoloration that might indicate disease or breakdown, which would affect the quality of the tuber.

**Freedom from Mechanical or Other Injury** – Tubers should be free from insect damage, sunburn, frost damage, and all cuts or bruises resulting from rough handling.

**Uniformity, Size, and Trueness to Variety** – The tubers composing the sample should be uniform in size, shape, colour, and other characteristics. The most popular size of tuber for cooking is 8 to 10 ounces;(226-283 gm) baking potatoes are slightly larger, 10 to 12 ounces (283-339 gm). It is important in selecting tubers that the size is kept uniform. The

tubers should be true to type of the variety they represent, and varieties in a sample should not be mixed. Tubers composing the sample should conform to the minimum grade standards for Canada No 1 potatoes under the regulations of the *Fruit, Vegetables, and Honey Grades Act*.

***Maturity, Quality, and Texture of Flesh*** – Tubers should be well matured, as indicated by a firm skin of good colour. Flesh should be firm, close-grained, true in colour, and crisp when cut. The cortical layer should be deep with small inner medulla. There should not be any Hollow Heart.

***Attractiveness and General Appearance*** – The sample should be of bright, clean, attractive appearance. Tubers should be smooth with no rough knobs. Care should be taken to preserve the natural colour and bloom of the skin. Do not wash or treat tubers with any material for exhibit.

### Potatoes for Seed

#### Score-Card

	Points
Freedom from disease.....	30
Freedom from injury.....	20
Trueness to variety.....	25
Uniformity and size.....	15
Attractiveness and general appearance.....	10

#### Explanation of Points

***Freedom from Disease*** – It is most important that potatoes for seed purposes should be free from all internal and external diseases. Cross-section of the stem-end should show no discoloration that might indicate disease or breakdown. When scoring, the virulence of the disease and difficulty of control should be taken into consideration.

***Freedom from Injury*** – The sample should show no cuts or bruises from handling or damage from insect attack. The tubers should not be sunburned or damaged by frost as these may impair sprouting and vigor of the seedling.

***Trueness to Variety*** – For seed purposes, tubers must be of one variety and should conform in size, shape, colour, etc., to the type sample of the variety.

***Uniformity and Size*** – The tubers should be uniform in size and shape. The sample should conform to the grade standards of the *Certified Seed-potato Act*. Eight-ounce (226 gm) tubers are preferred for exhibit. However, depending on specific grade or class, they may be small-size or mixed-size seed.

*Attractiveness and General Appearance* – The sample should be of a bright, clean, attractive appearance. Tubers should be smooth and free from knobs. Care should be taken to preserve the natural bloom and colour of the skin. Do not wash or otherwise treat the sample for exhibit. In the case of certified seed, a crop inspection certificate should accompany the sample.

### **Other Field Crops**

Hemp stalks, seeds, fibre - not yet legal at this time, but could be added at a later date.

### **Medicinal Herbs**

Culinary herbs should stay with the vegetable section, but medicinal herbs could be included in the field crop section. For example:

#### **Ginseng**

*Ginseng*: 6 roots dry from previous year's crop.

#### **Echinacea**

*Echinacea purpurea*

*Echinacea angustifolia*: 50 gm of dried root (1.8 oz)

50 gm of dried (or fresh) flowers (1.8 oz)

Judging standards for medicinal herbs do not exist but will need to be developed if growers decide to exhibit these crops.