

Farmers *Use* Certified Seed

Over 90 percent of all farm crop seeds planted in Arizona bears the tag of approval shown below. This is a hearty endorsement of the efforts of the College of Agriculture of the University of Arizona and the Arizona Crop Improvement Association to provide Arizona farmers with high-quality seed of superior, adapted varieties.

Certified Seed is seed produced under rigid inspection that guarantees to the purchaser that it is of known origin, free

from noxious weed seeds, and has a high percentage of viable seeds. Experiment Station plant breeders provide pure seed of highly selected lines of new and recommended varieties from their breeding plots. This is called Breeder's Seed and is used to plant larger plots for Foundation Seed. Both of these classes of seed are grown on one of the farms operated by the Experiment Station.

Foundation Seed is distributed among selected farmers by the Arizona Crop Improvement Association and is used to establish fields from which Registered Seed is harvested. Registered Seed is planted by farmers who can qualify to produce Certified Seed for sale.

Thus, the Certified Seed used in commercial production is only three seed generations away from the original Breeder's Seed. In these three steps a few pounds of Breeders' Seed may be increased to many thousands of pounds of pure Certified Seed.



A field of Hegari for certified seed production in the Salt River Valley.