



## PRODUCT FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS

### INTRODUCTION

Vegetable growing has become a highly specialized and intensive activity. As a result of the ever increasing demand for better quality, vegetable growers and plant raisers require an improved quality of the basic material. The demand for specific seed product forms and more information about seed quality has strongly increased to better influence emergence and required number of plants.

Seed is a natural product. The often varying environmental conditions thus influence final results. It is therefore often not possible to give detailed information about emergence and other physical seed characteristics. To meet the wishes of clients as much as possible Bejo Zaden B.V. (hereinafter called 'Bejo') has made up quality standards for the various seed categories.

The product specifications are not meant to be absolute minimum standards for delivery. If the quality tests of Bejo indicate a lower quality-level than given in these specifications, Bejo will inform prospective seed users. This communication is aimed at informing professional seed users about the quality they can expect, so they can make their own assessment and decide if these seeds meet their requirements.

The product specifications for both germination and varietal purity of precision seeds and the seed health requirements are based upon Euroseeds recommended standards.

### PRODUCT FORMS

*All seed meets the requirements for standard seed of the EU Council Directive 2002/55/EC.*

#### **Normal seed**

In general, normal seed has not been subjected to special processes. It is sold by weight and/or by count, depending on the product.

#### **Bejo Precision**

Bejo Precision is precision seed. The most stringent quality standards are employed for Bejo Precision. The seed has a uniform size and a high germination capacity. The Euroseeds product specifications mentioned in the table below are the basic standards for Bejo Precision.

#### **Primed seed**

The priming of seed comprises the activation of the germination process with the aim of ensuring that the seedlings will emerge more quickly and/or more uniformly after sowing. This process may also result in a more uniform crop and enables more accurate timing for weed control.

#### **Pelleted seed**

The pelleting of seed is a process in which small or irregularly shaped seeds are coated with an inert material to make them round and uniform, in order to facilitate sowing. It is also possible to add beneficial substances. For pelleted seed Bejo Precision seed is used.

#### **Bejo Basic coating (green colour)**

Bejo Basic coating is a film coating incorporating fungicides. These fungicides protect the seed from seedling blight and soil fungi during germination.

#### **Insecticide coating (blue colour)**

Insecticide coating is an all-round film coating incorporating fungicides and an insecticide. This coating considerably helps to reduce the use of crop protection agents. Insecticide coating provides reliable protection at the start of the cultivation and helps to prevent population growth. It is only available for onion seed for some countries.



### Advice safe use treated seed

When using treated seed, you must take precautions for your own safety and the protection of the environment. See “Treated seed safe use advice” on our website [www.bejo.com](http://www.bejo.com).

### Bejo coating for non-chemically treated (NCT) seed (white colour)

After harvest, conventionally produced seed may be physically treated (e.g. by steam vacuum or hot water treatment). NCT seed has a white colour coating, without any chemical additives, to facilitate sowing and for better visibility to control the drill depth and sowing rate.

### Organic seed

Bejo’s organic seed is certified according to Regulation (EC) 834/2007. After harvest, organically produced seed is subjected to physical treatment (e.g. by steam vacuum or hot water treatment). We apply an organic coating to all our organic seed.

### Bejo coating for organic seed (yellowish colour)

Bejo’s organic seed has a yellowish colour coating to facilitate sowing and for better visibility to control the drill depth and sowing rate. Bejo’s organic coating is approved-by the organic authorities.

## EUROSEEDS PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS OF PRECISION SEED AND PELLETS (valid for EU member states)

The germination percentages mentioned are Bejo’s minimum required figures and made up according to ISTA methods and tolerances, and are valid at the time of despatch.

Crop		Precision seed	Pellets
Asparagus	germination	85%	
Brassica	germination seed size gradation	90% 0,25 mm	90%
Beetroot	monogerm multigerm germination germination seed size gradation	80% 90% 0,50 mm	
Bunching Onion	germination seed size gradation	90% 0,25 mm	
Carrot	germination seed size gradation	85% 0,20 mm	
Celery/Celeriac	germination	90%	90%
Chicory Witloof	germination seed size gradation	85% 0,25 mm	85%
Courgette	germination	92%	
Cucumber	germination	92%	
Eggplant	germination	90%	



Crop			Precision seed	Pellets
Endive		germination	90%	92%
Fennel		germination seed size gradation	90% 0,20/0,50 mm	90%
Gherkin		germination	88%	
Leek	OP F1	germination germination seed size gradation	90% 85% 0,20/0,25 mm	90% 85%
Lettuce	Butterhead, Batavia, Iceberg, Romaine other types	germination germination	93% 93%	95% 95%
Melon	Charentais type other types	germination germination	95% 90%	
Onion		germination seed size gradation	90% 0,75 mm	
Parsley		germination seed size gradation	87% 0,20/0,25 mm	87%
Radicchio/Green Hearted Chicory		germination	88%	88%
Radish		germination seed size gradation	92% 0,25 mm	
Shallot		germination seed size gradation	90% 0,75 mm	
Spinach		germination seed size gradation	85% 0,75 mm	
Spinach Beet		germination seed size gradation	90% 0,50 mm	
Sweet/Hot Pepper		germination	90%	
Tomato		germination	92%	
Watermelon	normal type seedless type	germination germination	90% 85%	



## EUROSEEDS PRODUCT SPECIFICATIONS FOR VARIETAL PURITY\* OF PRECISION SEED (valid for EU member states)

Crop	Minimum % varietal purity for precision seeds
Brassica	93
Courgette	97
Cucumber	99
Gherkin	(excluding pollinators) 98
Eggplant	98
Lettuce Butterhead, Batavia, Iceberg, Romaine other types	98 95
Melon	98
Pepper	97
Tomato fresh market processing	98 95
Watermelon	98

\* Varietal purity is defined as the percentage of plants from a seed lot that meets the variety description.

### SEED HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

In order to supply sufficiently healthy vegetable seeds and in order to meet the requirements of EU Council Directive 2002/55/EC, Bejo uses various disease risk management strategies to prevent and control seed transmitted diseases. These may include and are not limited to seed health testing programs, protected seed production, field inspections, seed treatments and other effective seed disinfection methods.

ISHI-Veg has developed the Manual of Seed Health Testing Methods, which includes state of the art seed health testing protocols. Bejo follows the ISHI-Veg recommended minimum sizes of a representative sample for seed health testing.

Information regarding the ISHI-Veg seed health test protocols and recommended minimum sample sizes can be found at: <https://www.worldseed.org/resources/ishi-veg-protocols/>