

THE GEORGIA SEED LAW

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The Seed Law enacted by the General Assembly of Georgia in 1941 contained, among other things, a provision that each container of certain forest tree seeds as defined

by the Act (including longleaf pine, slash pine, loblolly pine and shortleaf pine), which is sold, offered for sale, or exposed for sale within this State for sowing purposes shall be labeled with the following information.

1. State and county origin
2. Name of collector
3. Date of collection including year and month
4. Technical generic and specific names- in official use by the U. S. Department of Agriculture
5. Purity of seeds expressed as the percentage by weight of whole, normal seeds
6. Germination percentage

The effectiveness of the law can only be estimated as the market for forest tree seed is limited, the principal buyers being State organizations. During the past few years, because of the scarcity of seed and the greatly increased planting program, it was necessary to buy all seed available whether in strict conformance to the law or not. As far as is known to the writer, the only provisions that might not have been followed strictly in all cases were those pertaining to purity and germination percent.

NEW YORK STATE TREE SEED LAW

Section 140-b of Article 9, Agriculture & Markets Law.

An amendment to the seed law was enacted covering tree and shrub seeds and became effective September 1, 1939 (Laws of 1939, Ch. 527). This amendment is designed to protect the buyer in this State against certain poor and unfit seed and is really a labeling law. The wording of the law is as follows:

"Each separate container of the seeds of forest, fruit, shade, or other trees and shrubs that are usually grown in this state or may later be grown in this state which are sold, offered or exposed for sale within this state for seeding purposes shall be clearly and plainly labeled in the English language to show:

1. The kind of seed, and the variety.
2. The approximate percentage of weight of pure seed.
3. The approximate percentage of germination.
4. The year of collection of such seed.
5. The specific locality (state and county in the U. S., or nearest equivalent political unit in the case of foreign countries) in which the seed was collected.
6. The name and address of the vendor of such seeds."

U, S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SEED POLICY

In 1939 the United States Department of Agriculture adopted the following forest seed policy-

"Recognizing that trees and shrubs, in common with other food and fiber plants, vary in branch habit, rate of growth, strength and stiffness of wood, resistance to cold, drought, insect attack, and disease, and in other attributes which influence their usefulness and local adaptation for forest, shelterbelt, and erosion-control use, and that such differences are largely of a genetic nature, it shall be the policy of the United States Department of Agriculture insofar as practicable to require for all forest, shelterbelt, and erosion-control plantings, stocks propagated from segregated strains or individual clones of proven superiority for the particular locality or objective concerned.

Furthermore, since the above attributes are associated in part with the climate and to some extent with other factors of environment of the locality of origin, it shall be the policy of the United States Department of Agriculture

1. To use only seed of known locality of origin and nursery stock grown from such seed,
- 2, To require from the vendor adequate evidence verifying place and year of origin for all lots of seed or nursery stock purchased, such as bills of lading, receipts for payments to collectors, or other evidence indicating that the seed or stock offered is of the source represented. When purchases are made from farmers or other Boll ,actors known to operate only locally, a statement capable of verification will be required as needed for proof of origin.
3. To require an accurate record of the origin of all lots of seed and nursery stock used in forest, shelterbelt, and erosion-control plantings, such records to include the following minimum standard requirements to be furnished with each shipment:
 - (1) Lot number
 - (2) Year of seed crop
 - (3) Species
 - (4) Seed Origin:
 - State
 - County
 - Locality
 - Range of elevation
 - (5) Proof of origin
4. To use local seed from natural stands whenever available unless it has been demonstrated that seed from another specific source produces desirable plants

for the locality and uses involved. Local seed means -seed from an area subject to similar climatic influences and' may usually be considered as that collected within 100 miles of the planting site and differing from it in elevation by less than 1, 000 feet.

5. When local seed is not available, to use seed from a region having as nearly as possible the same length of growing season, the same mean temperature of the growing season, the same frequencies of summer droughts, with other similar environment so far as possible, and the same latitude.

6. To continue experimentation with indigenous and exotic' species, races, and clones to determine their possible usefulness, and to delimit as early as practicable climatic zones within which seed or planting stock of species and their strains may be safely used for forest, shelterbelt, and erosion-control.

7. To urge that States, counties, cities, corporations, other organizations, and individuals producing and planting trees for forest, shelterbelt, and erosion control purposes, the expense of which is borne wholly or in part by the Federal Government, adhere to the policy herein outlined. "