

Pure Live Seed is a calculation that determines the quantity of pure viable seed, of the desired species, in each bag. A bag of seed typically consists of inert materials such as dust, chaff and empty seed. Each bag may also contain a percentage of weed and other crop seed. Excluding all other factors except germination percent and purity percent, we can determine the PLS percentage of an individual lot of seed. PLS allows the customer to purchase the right amount of clean, viable seed for the job. And since each lot varies, the PLS calculation gives a value by which to distinguish them.

Let's look at an example:

Lot 549A is 90% pure and germinates at 80% - purchase price of \$5.00 per bulk lb

Lot 601B is 70% pure and germinates at 60% - purchase price of \$3.50 per bulk lb

Lot 549A:  $.90 \times .80 = .72$  PLS %

Lot 601B:  $.70 \times .60 = .42$  PLS %

Now divide the purchase price of the seed by the PLS percentage to determine the Pure Live Seed price:

Lot 549A:  $\$5.00 / .72 = \$6.94$  per PLS lb

Lot 601B:  $\$3.50 / .42 = \$8.33$  per PLS lb

Even though the lower quality seed costs less per bulk pound, it actually ends up costing you more to equal the quality of the better lot. For this reason, the PLS price should be established prior to purchasing so that the best value can be passed on to the customer.

Once a decision is reached to purchase the seed, a calculation to determine the weight of the seed to be sold can be made.

Assuming 200 PLS pounds are bought:

Lot 549A:  $200 \text{ PLS lbs} / .72 = 277.8$  bulk lbs

Lot 601B:  $200 \text{ PLS lbs} / .42 = 476.2$  bulk lbs

To ensure you get what you paid for and more, Arkansas Valley Seed rounds up the bulk calculation so we provide at least the minimum PLS pounds ordered.

### WHAT'S IN THE BAG?

We will custom mix to any specification and to instill confidence of what you are buying we enforce strict standards for the tagging of every bag. The following items must be attached to every bag of seed that leaves our warehouse:

Kind & Variety	Inert Percentage	Origin of Seed
Lot Number	Weed Percentage	Date of Germination Test
Purity Percentage	Total Germination	Net Weight of Bag
Crop Percentage	Hard/Dormant Seed Count	Noxious Weeds If Present

### UNDERSTANDING THE HIERARCHY OF SEED PRODUCTION

- Breeder – The purest quality of a variety of seed directly from the seed breeder.
- Foundation – Grown from Breeder seed.
- Registered – Grown from Foundation seed.
- Certified – Grown from either Foundation or Registered seed - most common seed available to the public.
- Source Identified Seed – Verifies the origin and ecotype of a given species.
- Common - Undocumented variety but still is a reliable seed source - typically sold as VNS (Variety Not Stated).

**PVP** – The Plant Variety Protection Act gives developers of new varieties of plants patent-like rights that protect the reproduction and distribution of their varieties. Varieties that are protected under the Plant Variety Protection Act can only be sold with permission of the PVP holder and in some cases, only as a class of certified seed. Varieties that are protected must have labels on the seed containers indicating the type of protection.