SEEDMATCHGROUP

Commercial Agriculture Glossary

Seeds & nurseries

F1 Hybrid

A seed produced by crossing two distinct parent inbred lines to combine specific performance traits. Buyers should source F1 hybrid seed from a single declared parent combination for each order to keep crop uniformity predictable across a project.

Open-Pollinated Seed

Seed from varieties that breed true from natural pollination, allowing growers to save and replant seed across seasons. Procurement teams should confirm variety identity and generation (not just the open-pollinated label) when specifying this seed class.

Germination Rate

The share of a seed lot expected to produce normal seedlings under standard test conditions, reported on the lab or supplier test certificate. Buyers should request a current germination test result tied to the specific lot before committing to a purchase order.

Seed Lot

A defined, uniformly processed quantity of seed identified by a unique lot number that links it to its origin, testing, and treatment history. Procurement should always reference lot numbers in contracts so that quality claims and phytosanitary documents can be traced to the physical shipment.

Seed Purity

The proportion of a sample consisting of the declared crop seed, free from other crop seed, weed seed, and inert matter, as reported on a purity analysis. Buyers specifying bulk seed volumes should request purity analysis alongside germination data to understand the usable seed content of a shipment.

Seed Treatment

A coating or dressing applied to seed before sale to protect against early-season pests, diseases, or environmental stress during germination. Buyers should confirm which active ingredients are applied and whether the treatment is compatible with destination-country import rules before shipment.

Phytosanitary Certificate

An official document issued by the exporting country's plant protection authority confirming that a seed or plant shipment meets the importing country's pest and disease requirements. Buyers must build certificate issuance and destination-country acceptance into procurement timelines before scheduling shipment.

Import Permit
An authorization issued by a destination country's agricultural authority that must be secured before seed or planting material can legally enter the country. Buyers should confirm permit requirements and validity windows for the specific species and country early, since this step often determines overall project timing.

Seed Processing Plant
A facility where harvested seed is cleaned, sized, treated, and packaged to meet commercial quality specifications before sale. Buyers evaluating a supplier should review the processing plant's capability for the specific crop and packaging format required by the project.

Seed Production
The contracted, field-based multiplication of a specific variety under isolation and management practices designed to maintain genetic identity and seed quality. Buyers sourcing production-scale seed should confirm isolation distances and field inspection history as part of supplier due diligence.

Commercial Nursery
A dedicated facility that propagates seedlings, plugs, or grafted plants at scale for sale to commercial growers rather than retail gardeners. Buyers should assess a nursery's propagation capacity and phytosanitary practices against the project's planting schedule before placing an order.

Plug Transplant
A young seedling grown in an individual cell of a tray and transplanted with its root plug intact to reduce transplant shock and speed field establishment. Buyers ordering plug transplants should confirm tray cell size and plant age at delivery to match the project's transplanting equipment and schedule.

Rootstock / Grafting
The practice of joining a fruiting or production variety (scion) onto a separately bred root system (rootstock) chosen for traits such as disease tolerance or vigor. Buyers sourcing grafted plants should confirm both the scion variety and rootstock identity, since each affects management requirements independently.

Germination Chamber
A controlled-environment unit used by nurseries or seed labs to hold temperature and moisture conditions that initiate uniform seed germination before transplant or lab testing. Buyers evaluating a nursery or lab partner should ask how germination chamber conditions are monitored and documented for traceability.

Variety Trial
A structured side-by-side evaluation of candidate varieties under local growing conditions, used to inform variety selection before a commercial-scale order is placed. Buyers should request access to independent or supplier-run trial data relevant to their specific region before finalizing variety choice.