

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Eighth Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 43.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED  
AND NINETY-SEVEN

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AN ACT to regulate the sale of Agricultural Seeds.

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in  
Legislature assembled, as follows:*

Section 1. No seed shall be sold, offered, or exposed for  
2 sale in Maine which contains any seeds of dodder (*Cuscuta*  
3 species,) Canada thistle (*Carduus Arvensis*,) Russian thistle  
4 (*Salsola kali tragus*,) the bulblets of wild onion (*Allium*  
5 *vineale*,) or ergot (*Claviceps*,) or more than one per cent.  
6 of the seeds of wild flax (*Camelina sativa*,) wild carrot  
7 (*Daucus carota*,) plantain (*Plantago* species,) wild cress  
8 (*Lepidium* species,) quack grass (*Agropyron repens*),  
9 pennycress (*Thlaspi arvense*,) prickly lettuce (*Lactuca*  
10 *scariola*,) or wild mustard (*Brassica* species.)

Sect. 2. Every lot of seeds of agricultural plants, 2 whether in bulk or in package, containing one pound or 3 more, and including the seeds of cereals, grasses, forage 4 plants, vegetables, and garden plants, but not including 5 those of trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants which is sold, 6 offered or exposed for sale in Maine by any firm or dealer 7 in seeds, shall be accompanied by a written or printed 8 guarantee of its percentage of purity (freedom from foreign 9 matter) and germination; provided, that mixtures may be 10 sold as such when the percentages of the various constit- 11 uents are stated.

Sect. 3. An allowance of two per cent. below the guar- 2 antee shall be made for variation in the purity of seeds of 3 grasses and forage plants and five per cent. for variation 4 in the germination of all seeds included by the terms of 5 this act.

Sect. 4. Dealers may base their guarantees upon tests 2 conducted by themselves, or by the director of the Maine 3 Agricultural Experiment Station, under such conditions 4 as he may prescribe.

Sect. 5. The results of all tests of seeds made by said 2 director shall be published by him in the bulletins or reports 3 of the Experiment Station, together with the names of the 4 firms or dealers from whom the samples of seeds were 5 obtained. The said director shall also publish equitable 6 standards of purity and germination together with such 7 other information concerning agricultural seeds as may be 8 of public benefit.

Sect. 6. Any dealer who shall sell, offer, or expose for  
2 sale in this State agricultural seeds without complying with  
3 the requirements of sections 1 and 2 of this act, shall, on  
4 conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction, be fined  
5 one hundred dollars for the first offense and two hundred  
6 dollars for each subsequent offense.

Sect. 7. Any person or persons who shall with intention  
2 to deceive, wrongly mark or label any package or bag con-  
3 taining garden or vegetable seeds or any other agricultural  
4 seeds, not including those of trees, shrubs and ornamental  
5 plants, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon convic-  
6 tion in a court of competent jurisdiction shall be fined one  
7 hundred dollars for the first offense and two hundred dol-  
8 lars for each subsequent offense.

Sect. 8. The provisions of this act shall apply to regular  
2 dealers in seeds and not to farmers or persons growing  
3 cereals and other seeds for the market.

Sect. 9. Whenever the directors of the Maine Agricul-  
2 tural Experiment Station, becomes cognizant of the viola-  
3 tion of any of the provisions of this act, he shall report such  
4 violation to the secretary of the Board of Agriculture and  
5 said secretary shall prosecute the party or parties thus  
6 reported.

Sect. 10. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this  
2 act are hereby repealed.

Sect. 11. This act shall take effect September 1, 1897.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

February 4, 1897.

Reported by Mr. HOLBROOK of Brunswick, from Committee on  
Agriculture, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*