



The Washington State Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) Seed Program laboratory in Yakima now offers the electrical conductivity (EC) test to further measure seed quality and vigor. Seed vigor relates to the health and viability of seed which have a direct correlation to the field emergence potential of a seed lot.



Seed lots that germinated well may still have poor field production. This can be especially true for seed lots exposed to conditions such as:

- Mechanical damage from late harvest.
- Rain damaged crops.
- Frost at harvest.
- Held in storage (e.g. older lots).



### Why an EC test?

The EC test measures the condition of the seed's cell membranes. Low quality seeds have poor membrane structure that allows electrolytes such as amino acids and inorganic ions to leak through. These compounds are necessary for seedlings to develop and emerge rapidly. High quality seeds contain their nutrients within their membranes.

**The EC test is recommended for many large-seeded legumes such as:**

- Beans
- Chickpeas
- Peas

**For more information on the test and how to ship for testing,** please view the WSDA Seed Program [Electrical Conductivity Testing page](#) on the internet.

**EC Test Cost: \$48**  
Includes a moisture test

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