



UMN Forever Green Partnership

Instructions for purchasing and acquiring your MN-Clearwater variety Kernza® Seed from UMN for 2020 planting

Developed by: Colin Cureton

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Introduction

This guide is for growers approved to plant MN-Clearwater variety Kernza® in 2020 to purchase and acquire their seed. This year seed will be sold and distributed through a partnership between the UMN Forever Green Initiative (UMN FGI), MN Crop Improvement Association (MCIA), and UMN FGI's seed cleaning, storage, and distribution partner MN Native Landscapes (MNL).

The MN-Clearwater variety seed distribution process for 2020 demonstrates that we are still in a very early stage of Kernza commercialization. Thank you in advance for your understanding and patience. As early as next year (2021), licensed growers will be able to buy Kernza seed from several of the Upper Midwestern perennial and row crop seed companies you know and trust.

Overview: Purchasing and acquiring your MN-Clearwater Kernza seed from UMN in 2020

The three basic steps all growers will need to take to acquire your seed are as follows:

1. **PLAN:** Consult with written resources, other Kernza growers, and/or UMN FGI to determine your row spacing, calculate your total seed needs, and choose shipping vs. pick-up. Communicate your order and shipping preference to UMN FGI.
2. **BUY:** Receive invoice from MCIA, mail them a check, be issued a receipt of sale
3. **GET:** Use receipt of sale to arrange shipment or pick-up from MNL

More detail is below on each step.

Step #1: PLAN- determine row spacing, total seed quantity, and shipping vs. pick-up

In 2020, UMN's MN-Clearwater variety Kernza seed is \$5.00/lb of pure live seed. Seed prices in 2020 are reduced to account for lower germ rate. The lot almost all growers will be purchasing from (other than WI growers and those growing for seed production) is named KC60A and is priced at \$2.30/lb. If you are planting in WI or growing for seed production, contact Colin Cureton (cure0012@umn.edu / 612-750-4967) for seed lot info, pricing, and planting rates.



Your seeding rate will depend on your row spacing. Here is a table for recommended planting rate (lbs/ac) for KC60A based on the UMN agronomy team's recommendation of 10 lbs/ac pure live seed on 6 inch row spacing:

Lot Name	Row spacing (inches)				
	6 in.	7.5 in.	12 in.	15 in.	24 in.
KC60A	22 lbs/ac	17 lbs/ac	11 lbs/ac	9 lbs/ac	5 lbs/ac

To inform row spacing, review the Kernza grower guide and other resources [found here](#). If you still need guidance, please reach out to other Kernza growers, UMN Kernza agronomists, and/or the UMN FGI Commercialization Team.

You will need to decide at the time of ordering whether you want to pick-up seed or take shipment. All growers taking shipping will be charged a flat \$100 shipping fee, as that is the minimum cost likely to be incurred to ship any of the plots UMN has approved. All seed will be picked-up or shipped from MNL's main location: [8740 77th St NE, Otsego, MN 55362](#). They are located about halfway between the Twin Cities and Saint Cloud.

Once you've determined your seeding rate, please contact Colin Cureton, UMN FGI Supply Chain Development Specialist, at cure0012@umn.edu or 612-750-4967. Colin will confirm, document, and relay your seed order and shipping preference to MCIA.

Step #2: BUY- purchase your seed from MCIA, be issued a receipt of sale

MN-Clearwater seed will be purchased this year through MCIA.

IMPORTANT: seed will only be distributed once MCIA receives payment, and MCIA only takes payment by check.

After you contact Colin to place your order, MCIA will email you an invoice confirming the total cost for seed and any shipping fees. A single check for seed and any shipping fee should be made out to Minnesota Crop Improvement Association and mailed to:

MN Crop Improvement Association
Attn: Roger Wippler
1900 Hendon Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Please write the variety, lot name, and amount in the check memo - i.e. "MN-Clearwater variety, Lot KC60A, 500 lbs."

Once your payment is received, MCIA will issue you a receipt of sale by email. This receipt is your electronic ticket for MN Native Landscapes to ship you seed. MN Native Landscapes does not take payment and will not ship anyone seed that has not been issued a receipt of sale.



Any questions for MCIA can be directed to either Roger Wippler (612-625-7766 / wippl002@umn.edu) or Carl Anfinson (612-625-7766 / carl.anfinson@mncia.org).

Based on the time needed to deliver checks and arrange delivery, we strongly recommend determining you determine your seed needs and send payment ASAP.

Step #3: GET- use receipt of sale to arrange shipment or pick-up from MNL

Minnesota Native Landscapes (MNL) cleaned and stored UMN's 2019 MN-Clearwater seed increase lots, will be distributing all MN-Clearwater seed in 2020, and will be one of a small handful of licensed seed companies to grow, buy, and sell MN-Clearwater seed starting this Fall. Kernza growers and partners should get to know them. The main Kernza contact at MNL is Production Manager Wes Olmschenk (wes@mnlcorp.com / 763-295-0010).

This year, MNL will be distributing MN-Clearwater seed to growers but MNL cannot take payment for MN-Clearwater Kernza seed. All payments must be made to MCIA per the above instructions.

MNL will ship through Speedy to growers in the Upper Midwest, which is almost everyone. MNL can also go through several national LTL shipping services for folks further afield.

Questions?

Any general questions about this process can be directed to Colin Cureton, UMN FGI Supply Chain Development Specialist, at cure0012@umn.edu or 612-750-4967.

