

2016 AOSA Rules Change Proposal 10

Purpose of Proposal:

It is proposed that the definition for the symbol “P” in Table 6A of Section 6.9 a. be expanded to allow for clear containers other than petri dishes to be utilized. It is also proposed to permit the use of paper towels and to not prescribe a required layer of media but simply require that the media used must provide adequate moisture during the test period.

Present Rule:

AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds Volume 1. Principles and Procedures:

6.9 Explanation of Table 6A

Table 6A contains specific germination requirements for the kinds of seeds listed in column 1. If the genus and species is listed, that listing shall be used. If the species is not listed, use the spp. listing for that genus. Some explanations of these tables and additional germination requirements and conditions are as follows:

a. **Substrata.** — Any medium listed for a particular species in the substrata column of Table 6A may be used. The order listed does not indicate preference. Symbols for substrata in column 2, Table 6A are:

...

P: covered petri dishes with (a) two layers of blotters, or (b) three thicknesses of filter paper, or (c) top of sand

Proposed Rule:

6.9 Explanation of Table 6A

Table 6A contains specific germination requirements for the kinds of seeds listed in column 1. If the genus and species is listed, that listing shall be used. If the species is not listed, use the spp. listing for that genus. Some explanations of these tables and additional germination requirements and conditions are as follows:

a. **Substrata.** — Any medium listed for a particular species in the substrata column of Table 6A may be used. The order listed does not indicate preference. Symbols for substrata in column 2, Table 6A are:

...

P: covered petri dishes **or other rigid transparent containers, with appropriate layers of blotters, filter paper, paper toweling, creped cellulose paper, or sand that provide adequate moisture to the seeds during the test period.**

Harmonization and Impact Statement:

Federal Seed Act Regs – Part 201 state the use of only petri dishes and not other types of clear containers.

§201.58 Substrata, temperature, duration of test, and certain other specific directions for testing for germination and hard seed.

P= covered Petri dishes: with two layers of blotters; with one layer of absorbent cotton; with five layers of paper toweling; with three thicknesses of filter paper; or with sand or soil.

ISTA Rules Section 5.6.2.1 Growing media state the following in section 5.6.2.1.1 Methods using paper.

...

Top of paper (TP): the seeds are germinated on top of one or more layers of paper which are placed:

...

– into transparent boxes or Petri dishes. The appropriate quantity of water is added at the beginning of the test and evaporation may be minimized by a tightly fitting lid or by enclosing the dishes in plastic bags;

...

Moistened porous paper or absorbent cotton can be used as a base for the substrates.

Canadian M&P does not list petri dishes as a typical requirement for germination methods but does list petri dish in the test method for *Nasturtium officinale* Watercress "... in covered petri dishes."

Supporting Evidence:

The Federal Seed Act Regs – Part 201 allow for the use of paper toweling as one of the substrates in petri dishes. The ISTA Rules allow for the use of paper toweling as well as transparent boxes.

References:

Federal Seed Act Regs – Part 201 §201.58

ISTA Rules Section 5.6.2.1

Canadian M&P Section 4.6.2 Table 5. Germination Methods

Submitted By:

David M. Johnston, RST

Monsanto Seed Physiology Lab

2700 Camino del Sol

Oxnard, CA 93030

david.m.johnston@monsanto.com

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