

## SEED TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH SURVEY SUBCOMMITTEE

The job of this subcommittee was to obtain descriptions of current seed research projects and to determine seed research needs. A preliminary report of the findings of this subcommittee was circulated to the Executive Board of the AOSA in October, 1966. The final report, with revisions, is being published as a supplement to the AOSA News Letter. Printing is in progress and copies will soon be ready for distribution.

The American Seed Research Foundation has agreed to contribute \$400 to help with publication costs. Total cost to the AOSA will not exceed \$400.

There has been considerable delay in completing this project. Some of the delay was due to the usual problems associated with conducting committee work by correspondence. However, certain problems of the subcommittee must be attributed to the nature of the assignment. Survey information was obtained through a questionnaire sent to persons and organizations known to be interested in seed research. Most AOSA laboratories answered the questionnaire, but response from other organizations was poor. Summarization of replies was difficult because of the varied responses. It was necessary to obtain supplementary information through correspondence to develop a clear picture of current research and of research needs in seed technology.

For future research surveys, it is recommended that a small number of "pilot" questionnaires should be sent out and the "pilot" replies studied before questionnaires are generally distributed. It is even possible that help should be obtained in preparing the questionnaire from persons who specialize in questionnaire preparation and analysis. Such help is available in most educational institutions.

Dan Niffenegger, CHAIRMAN

## RULES COMMITTEE

*Tolerances*—During the past year the request most frequently made for interpretation of the rules has been in the use of tolerances or for new tolerances for special needs. The Rules Committee has therefore requested that the incoming president appoint a special committee on tolerances whose function would be to review the tolerances now in use or to develop any new tolerances that may be required.

*Normal and Abnormal Seedlings in White-Seeded Snapbeans*—It has been generally agreed that the interpretation of what constitutes normal or abnormal seedlings in the white-seeded snapbean should be reviewed. It is therefore recommended that the Research and Referee Committees plan a series of studies to develop any new description of abnormality that may be required to aid in arriving at uniformity.

*Pure Seed of Grasses*—It was considered that since the intent of the definition of pure seed in the grasses given in the AOSA, the ISTA and the Federal rules is the same and what is required is a clarification of the wording in the rules, any action to change this wording could be left to the next rule change.

*Insect Damage in Vetch*—Since the types of insect damage occurring in these kinds are not adequately covered in the rules, some definition of what should be

considered as pure seed or inert matter is required. It is recommended, therefore, that until the Research Committee provides a new description of insect damaged seed for the rules, the following categories of insect damage should be considered as inert, namely: those seeds in which the cap is completely missing. If the cap or part of the cap remains attached to the seed, the seed is to be considered as pure seed.

*"Firm Seed"*—The consensus among the committee members is that the term "firm seed" be dropped and that the term "dormant seed" be used.

*Germination Methods for Certain Flower Seeds*—It was recommended to the executive board that the methods presented by Mr. Claude Heit be accepted as tentative rules by the Association, and that a committee be formed from among those engaged in flower seed testing to provide data in support of these methods before they are accepted as prescribed methods.

*Blowing Point for Merion Kentucky Bluegrass*—It is recommended that the amendments to Section 2.11, special purity procedure on alternate methods giving blowing methods for Merion Kentucky bluegrass, which were presented to the last annual meeting in Vancouver, B.C., June, 1966, be accepted as an alternate method.

These amendments were not accepted at that time for two reasons: (1) the required publication time of 90 days before the annual meeting had not been met; and (2) only the General Blower was used in the studies presented. Because the second reservation still exists it is recommended that studies be undertaken by the Research Committee to include other blowers which are now in use in some laboratories.

T. F. Cuddy, CHAIRMAN

#### DETECTION OF SEED TREATMENTS SUBCOMMITTEE

The present rule under Section 6 indicates the test procedure to be used to provide evidence of a treatment material on seed. This subcommittee is hoping to reach agreement on a procedure for determining relative amounts of such treatment on individual seeds. All members have reviewed tentative proposals regarding this. Also, we have completed two referee tests during the past year.

Part of the first test was designed to evaluate a commercial antibiotic-impregnated paper disc for its possible use as a standard control in bio-assays. It was hoped that it would indicate the relative sensitivity of tests performed by different laboratories. However, no apparent correlation was shown between the average areas of inhibition produced by the antibiotic and by a lightly treated sorghum seed lot in tests by 5 members.

A ryegrass seed lot treated commercially with apparently a trace of Arasan produced positive results in all tests by the members indicating highly sensitive tests.

The second referee compared two barley samples to evaluate the decrease, after almost four years storage, of inhibitory action against *Glomerella* by seeds treated with a common volatile mercurial seed fungicide. The stored sample ranged about 1/3 to 4/5 less inhibitory than a well-treated check sample according to results of 6 members.

J. F. Schoen, CHAIRMAN