

The proposal would require the following addition to the Normal Seedling section of Part 11. Miscellaneous plant families on page 116 of the rules:

(c) Root crops (carrot and parsnip) must have a long, vigorous primary root.

Late Received Rule Change Proposal

The following proposed rule change was received too late to be reviewed by the Rules Committee; however, it is being presented here for your evaluation prior to vote at the Florida meeting.

This rule change was proposed by James Bruce, Iowa State University Seed Laboratory, Ames, Iowa 50011. Phone (515) 294-6826. It concerns classification of ergotized crop and weed seeds.

Proposal

Change section 2.7h to read:

"Seed units with nematode galls, fungus bodies (i.e. ergot, smut, etc.) and spongy or corky caryopses which cannot be readily distinguished from uninfected seed units."

Change section 2.10a. (8) to read:

"Seed units which can be readily determined to contain nematode galls or fungus bodies (smut, ergot and other sclerotia). Refer to Section 2.7h."

Add section (f) to section 2.10b. (2) as follows:

"Grass florets and caryopses which can be readily determined to contain nematode galls or fungus bodies (smut, ergot and other sclerotia)."

Supporting Evidence

At the 1980 AOSA convention, we presented a number of ergotized Agropyron repens "seeds" which were visibly ergotized, but did not have ergot protruding from the tip of the seed unit, as would be required if considered under the "crop" rules presently in force. There is no parallel to the current crop rule in the "weed" section.

Adopting the proposed amendments would bring the AOSA rules into line with International Seed Testing Association regulations and the Federal Seed Act. The proposed amendments would also clarify rulings on ergotized or otherwise infected weed seed.

ISTA 3.2.1 (b) (on pure seed) "Achenes and similar fruits, schizocarps and mericarps, with or without perianth and regardless of whether they contain a true seed, unless it is readily apparent that no true seed is present."

FSA 201.48 h (on pure seed) "Diseased seeds except ergot, smut balls and other fungus bodies which are to be classed as inert matter."

FSA 201.51.1.a.5 (on inert seeds) "Seed units of grasses in which caryopses are replaced by nematode galls or by fungus bodies such as smut balls or ergot sclerotia."

FSA 201.51.1.c.1 (on inert seeds) "Nematode galls, including galls enveloped by the lemma and palea of grass florets."

FSA 201.51.c.2 (on inert seeds) "Fungus bodies, such as ergot and other sclerotia and smut balls."

We feel that an appropriate test of "readily determined" is if the seed unit must be mechanically opened or subjected to prolonged scrutiny to determine infection, then the seed should be classed as "pure seed" or "weed seed". If the seed unit is abnormal in color, or if ergot or other replacement tissue can be seen between the lemma and palea of the floret, or if the shape of the floret makes it obvious that the seed unit is infected, it should be classed with inert material.

Tentative Rules for Testing Coated Seeds

The following procedures were approved as "tentative rules" by the AOSA Executive Board and the Rules Committee at their 1980 annual meeting in Iowa.

The purpose of "tentative" rules is to give the membership an opportunity to apply new methods before final adoption and to find any weaknesses which may exist.

In order to give these methods the broadest exposure possible, they will be included in the next printing of the rules.

These procedures were submitted by Doris Baxter, USDA Seed Laboratory, P. O. Box 1641, Sacramento, California 95808 on behalf of the AOSA Coated Seed Subcommittee, phone (916) 440-3134.