

NOTICE FROM THE RULES COMMITTEE

E. W. Sundermeyer, Chairman

This is for the purpose of informing those who were not in attendance at the recent meeting of the Association of Official Seed Analysts of actions taken by the association with respect to proposed revisions of the Rules for Testing Seeds. The recommendations of the Rules Committee submitted to the membership of the association, dated March 13, 1958, were adopted by the association at its business meeting June 19, 1959, with the following principal exceptions:

1. The proposals concerning sampling with respect to sections 1.3 and 1.4 of the rules were not adopted. Certain new proposals were made for changes in tolerances as well as for sampling. Because it was felt that the tolerance proposals should be further considered it was decided to also give further consideration to the sampling proposals since these matters are interrelated.
2. Recommendation concerning 2.7,1 of the rules, at bottom of page 5 (item 2,c under Sec. 2.7) of the March 13 recommendations, was not adopted. The classification of insect damaged seed is left as it now is in the rules with some modification in wording.
3. The proposed change for section 2.9, weed seed, was not adopted. This section remains as it now is in the rules with minor changes in wording.
4. Under section 2.10,a, a new subparagraph designed to aid in the classification of inert grass florets was adopted. It reads as follows:  
    "(5) Seed units of grasses in which the caryopses are: spongy or corky, crumbly and white, filled with insect frass, or replaced by nematode galls or by fungus bodies such as smut balls or ergot sclerotia."
5. The recommendation under item 3, Section 4.5, page 8 of the March 13 recommendations was not adopted.
6. A substitute proposal was adopted for section 4.6 and 4.7. It is not practical to reproduce it here; however, suffice it to say, the substitute proposal is similar in principle to the one originally recommended except that it is more comprehensive and is on a sounder statistical basis.
7. The proposal for section 4.8,h, on page 10 of the March 13 recommendations was not adopted.

8. The proposal for changing section 5.9, Table VIII was not adopted.
9. Meadow fescue, tall fescue, and ryegrass were eliminated from the proposal for the optional treatment of certain chaffy grasses. This means that creeping red fescue, crested wheatgrass, orchardgrass, intermediate wheatgrass, and chewings fescue may be tested by the alternate method when the revised rules become effective on July 1, 1960.
10. The phrase "including sorghum alnum" should be deleted from the footnote found under item 2, page 4, and also from the same footnote found under item 25, page 13 of the March 13 recommendations. This means that sorghum alnum is not included with sorgrass, but remains as a separate kind of seed.
11. There are other minor changes in wording and format. It is not practical to point them out here. It is hoped that the revised rules will be ready for publication by the end of the year so that analysts will have them in sufficient time to become familiar with them prior to July 1, 1960 when they become effective.

Because of the importance of the action taken by the association to adopt the climax blowing procedure for Kentucky bluegrass, we believe a brief explanation of this action is desirable. A full discussion of this method was provided at open meetings of both the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists and the Association of Official Seed Analysts. After considering all of the discussion and evidence for and against the adoption of this procedure, the following recommendation was made and was subsequently adopted by majority vote of the association.

1. That the climax method for testing Kentucky bluegrass (common) be adopted as an alternate method effective July 1, 1960.
2. That the climax method for testing Kentucky bluegrass (common) be adopted as the official method effective July 1, 1961.
3. That the present hand method and the standard blowing procedure now provided in Section 2.11 for Kentucky bluegrass be eliminated on July 1, 1961.
4. That a special committee be appointed by the president to organize and carry out the necessary details to put the climax method into operation and to initiate further studies for other Poa spp.

The Rules Committee felt that the request of the SCST to delay adoption of climax method as the official method for two years was a legitimate and reasonable request. However, we felt that in order to provide for a transition period in which laboratories could become familiar with the operation of the method and give it thorough trial we recommended that the method be adopted as an alternate method for a year prior to the time it becomes the only official method. We believe this will not contribute to greater non-uniformity than exists at the present time. Rather, we will request that during the time that both hand and climax methods are in effect that analysts begin to gradually standardize their hand interpretation with the climax method. Dr. L. E. Everson has been appointed chairman of the committee to put the climax procedure into operation.

It will be noted that the association voted to change from the use of a 10x10 mesh screen to a 1/13-inch round hole sieve for the classification of Allium bulblets. You will be informed at a later date concerning the availability of the sieves.

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CONCERNING THE GENERAL SEED BLOWER

Mr. Howard J. Voorhees of the New Brunswick General Sheet Metal Works has provided the following information concerning the production schedule of the General Seed Blower:

"We, at the present time, are fabricating a lot of 12 blowers for delivery approximately October 1st. Against this lot we have formal orders for 2, and inquiries that I understand will result in orders for 3 more.

"It has been our practice in the past to start production on a new lot as soon as orders are received covering 10 units of existing stock. Fabrication usually takes from 8 to 10 weeks.

"It has been our policy to set aside a blower in our production schedule as soon as an inquiry indicates that an order will be forthcoming in the near future. In this way we have been able to make deliveries within a reasonable length of time".