

PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN AOSA RULES
by
AOSA Rules Committee

1. Adjustments to clarify definition of a multiple Floret

A. Present Rule:

2.12b Definition: A multiple unit is a seed unit that includes at least one fertile floret plus one or more of attached structures as follows:

- (1) A sterile floret that extends to or beyond the tip of the fertile floret;
- (2) Basally attached glume, glumes, or basally attached sterile florets of any length.

B. Proposed change:

2.12b Definition: A multiple unit is a seed unit that includes a fertile floret plus one or more of attached structures as follows:

- (1) no change
- (2) no change
- (3) one or more additional fertile florets

C. Justification:

The present rule does not fully describe a unit with only two or more fertile florets attached together. It appears to be mandatory that structures listed in (1) or (2) be associated with the fertile florets.

This was not the intent of the Rangegrass Committee when the present rule was constructed. Consequently seed analysts are interpreting the definition in two different ways. Some interpret the definition literally and separate attached fertile florets and add them to single florets. On the other hand some, who are aware of the original intent, put them into the multiple floret classification.

Clues to the intent can be found by reviewing an article in the 1977 AOSA Newsletter 51(2):35-37. The first lengthy definition proposed on page 37 made it clear that attached fertile florets were intended to be multiple units. However, the modifications made to reduce the bulkiness of the definition produced ambiguity regarding these units. It is also proposed in ISTA Rules 3,5.2,A.6 that two or more attached fertile florets be considered a multiple seed unit.

2. Concept of "hard seed" in Asparagus spp.

A. Present Rule

In 4.11 Table 4. Methods of testing for laboratory germination of