

Seed Counts

Under Chairman Philip Stanwood study of species with unacceptable seed weight variation has continued. Recommendation for rule changes will be forthcoming.

Tree and Shrub Seeds

This sub-committee has been active in 1979 under Chairman Frank Bonner. A workshop/symposium was carried out. More work is planned for 1979-80.

Vigor Test

Miller McDonald has again directed an active referee program on vigor tests. Of extreme importance is finalizing the definition of seed vigor.

X-Ray Technology

Earl Belcher and committee now have the handbook published.

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Resolution Committee

E. E. Hardin

Whereas AOSA has been benefited by the reprinting and distribution of Handbook 219

Be it therefore resolved that AOSA express its appreciation by letter to the Director of the Seed Standardization Branch and to further advise him of the continuing interest in the reprinting of Handbook 30.

Whereas the U. S. Forest Service has unselfishly contributed to the production of AOSA Handbook No. 31 (Radiography Analysis of Agricultural and Forest Tree Seeds) and

Whereas through their assistance in publication contracting additional copies were obtained

Be it resolved that the secretary of AOSA send a letter of appreciation to John Vance, Area Director, USDA Forest Service, 1720 Peachtree NW, Atlanta, GA.

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Rules Committee

Rodger Danielson

One proposal for changing the "Rules for Testing Seeds" was received and reviewed by the Committee. The proposal concerned redefining soybean pure seed to include soybean pieces, regardless of their size, if they had an attached embryonic axis.

The committee unanimously rejected this proposal on the grounds that:

- (1) it was contrary to the existing philosophy that purity and germination potential should be considered in separate tests, and
- (2) it would tend to slow the purity test.

The committee is in the process of revising Appendix 1, Seedling Descriptions. Contact has been made with an ISTA committee currently revising their Seedling Evaluation Handbook about the possibility of using their Handbook as a model in our revision.

Two "interpretations" were made by the committee. One was a request concerning the inert and pure seed classification of buffelgrass fascicles. The committee noted that the Rules are explicit and, by omission, require that buffelgrass fascicles must contain endosperm to be classed as pure seed. They are not exempt from endosperm determination under section 2.7 g (1) of the Rules.

The other rule interpretation was that the varieties Ruby and Fortress red fescue should be treated as creeping red fescues and not chewings fescue for the purpose of assigning a multiple floret factor under section 2.12 c (2) of the Rules.

A request was received from the Association of Seed Control Officials of the Northeast (ASCONES) asking for a modification of section 4.4 of the Rules to allow for testing fewer than 400 seeds when germinating specialty seed items such as "preplanters, tapes, etc." Further correspondence from ASCONES indicated that there was no need to modify AOSA Rules and that their seed law enforcement procedures would allow them to test these consumer size units regardless of the number of seeds present.

Regarding status of rules for testing pelleted/coated seeds, I am advised that a Research Subcommittee, chaired by Doris Baxter, is actively working on the problem. It is their intent to submit testing recommendations to the Rules Committee for adoption by AOSA. However, no such recommendation will be forthcoming this year.

The Rules Committee is currently studying the problem of properly classifying as to inert or pure seed, lemmas and paleas attached to wheat kernels. Some seed lots have a significant number of kernels with their lemma and paleas attached, and there does not appear to be a way of classifying them under current rules.

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Rules Change Procedure

The procedures below must be followed when submitting an addition or change to the AOSA Rules:

1. Obtain a form from the Rules Committee Chairman or committee member. (A copy of this form appears with this article.)
2. After gathering sufficient data to support your change, fill in the form and return it to the Rules Committee Chairman.