

Committee Report

PROPOSED REVISION OF THE RULES FOR TESTING SEEDS

A major revision of the Rules for Testing Seeds is being undertaken, the first such revision since 1965. New proposals and suggested changes were received from many sources, including individual AOSA members, AOSA committees, and the seed industry. These were reviewed by the Rules Committee, and those that appeared adequately justified were recommended for consideration by the Association at the 1970 meeting. The changes approved by the membership will become effective July 1, 1971.

Copies of the detailed proposals for changes and additions to the Rules were mailed to AOSA member laboratories, associate members, and members of the SCST. In summary, the changes proposed include the following:

1. Weights for working samples to be adjusted for many of the grasses in accordance with the seed weight data obtained by the Seed Counts Committee.
2. Eleven new species to be added to Table 1, Weights for Working Samples.
3. The section on the Uniform Blowing Method to be revised. It would include all Kentucky bluegrass varieties, Pennsacola bahiagrass, and orchardgrass.
4. The phenol test to be added as a varietal identification method for wheat.
5. The term "firm seed" to be dropped in favor of the term "dormant seed." The definition of "dormant seed" to be revised to include instructions for determining the presence of dormant seeds.
6. Approximately 60 new species to be added to the germination tables and the methods for approximately 60 additional species to be revised.
7. Cotyledon necrosis to be eliminated as a factor in judging lettuce seedling abnormalities.
8. The section on Detection of Seed Treatments to be revised.
9. A new section to be added on Tetrazolium Testing.

In addition, the Rules Committee is proposing to change the format of the Rules for better usage. It is planned to:

1. Adopt the loose-leaf method of publication. It is hoped that this will encourage yearly revisions of the Rules, and that these revisions may be easily inserted without re-issuing the entire Rules.
2. Reorganize and rewrite the Rules in format similar to the ISTA Rules for better readability.
3. Print the purity and germination tables in two different forms:
 - a) Species listed alphabetically by scientific name (common names listed secondarily).
 - b) Species listed alphabetically by common name (scientific names listed secondarily).

With the loose-leaf format, laboratories will be able to tailor-make their editions of the Rules.

AOSA RULES COMMITTEE:

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