

## 2020 Rule Change Proposal 19

### 1. PURPOSE OF PROPOSAL:

The purpose of this proposal is to delete the requirement to remove the enclosing structures from the caryopsis for all cultivars of bahiagrass, except 'Pensacola', in Section 6.8.b and Table 6A. Removing the enclosing structures is a very precise, time consuming, and potentially injurious practice for analysts to perform. This required practice has also been attributed to a significant variation in test. Removing the caryopsis from the enclosing structures from the caryopsis for all cultivars of bahiagrass, except 'Pensacola', would be changed to an alternate method in Section 6.8.b and Table 6A.

### 2. PRESENT RULE:

#### AOSA Rules:

6.8 Special procedures and alternate methods for germination

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b. Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*). — All cultivars except 'Pensacola': Remove the enclosing structures (glumes, lemma and palea) from the caryopsis with the aid of a sharp scalpel. If the seed is dormant, scratch the surface of the caryopsis lightly.

**Table 6A. Methods of testing for laboratory germination**

Kind of seed	Substrata <sup>a</sup>	Temperature (C°)	First count (days)	Final count (days)	Specific requirements and notes	Dormant seed <sup>f</sup>
<i>Paspalum notatum</i> bahiagrass 'Pensacola'	P, S	20-35	7	28	Light; see sec. 6.8b	Scratch caryopsis; KNO <sub>3</sub>
All other cvs.	P	30-35	3	21	Light; remove enclosing structures: see sec. 6.8.b	Scratch caryopsis; KNO <sub>3</sub>

### 3. PROPOSED RULE:

#### AOSA Rules:

6.8 Special procedures and alternate methods for germination

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b. Bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*). — **Alternate method for A**all cultivars except 'Pensacola': Remove the enclosing structures (glumes, lemma and palea) from the caryopsis with the aid of a sharp scalpel. If the seed is dormant, scratch the surface of the caryopsis lightly.

**Table 6A. Methods of testing for laboratory germination**

Kind of seed	Substrata <sup>a</sup>	Temperature (C°)	First count (days)	Final count (days)	Specific requirements and notes	Dormant seed <sup>f</sup>
<i>Paspalum notatum</i> bahiagrass 'Pensacola'	P, S	20-35	7	28	Light; see sec. 6.8b	Scratch caryopsis; KNO <sub>3</sub>
All other cvs.	P	30-35	3	21	Light; <del>remove enclosing structures:</del> see sec. 6.8.b	Scratch caryopsis; KNO <sub>3</sub>
<del>Alternate method</del> All other cvs.	<del>P</del>	<del>30-35</del>	<del>3</del>	<del>21</del>	<del>Light;</del> <del>remove enclosing structures:</del> <del>see sec. 6.8.b</del>	<del>Scratch caryopsis;</del> <del>KNO<sub>3</sub></del>

**4. HARMONIZATION AND IMPACT STATEMENT:**

ISTA Rules – These rules do not require the enclosing structures to be removed for *Paspalum notatum*.

Federal Seed Act (FSA)/Regs Section 201 – These rules require the enclosing structures for all bahiagrass cultivars except 'Pensacola'. To allow the removing of the enclosing structures to become an alternate method and not the only test method permitted, the AOSA Rules and FSA would no longer be in harmony.

Canadian M&P – These rules do not list a test method for *Paspalum notatum*.

**5. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE:**

Proposal based upon the results and data analysis of a 2018 Zone 5 Referee project. Details and findings of this project are provided as an attachment.

**6. SUBMITTED BY:**

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**7. DATE SUBMITTED:**

October 9, 2019