

2022 Rule Proposal #5

Purpose of Proposal: To add the common name citron-melon in Volumes 1, 3 and 4 for *Citrullus amarus*.

Present Rule and Proposed Rule: (changes indicated in red text)

Volume 1. Principles and Procedures

Table 2A. Weights for working samples.

Pure Seed Unit #	Chaffy Seed ^a	Kind of seed	Minimum weight for purity analysis ^b	Minimum weight for noxious-weed seed or bulk examination	Approximate number of seeds per gram ^c	Approximate number of seeds per ounce ^d
			Grams	Grams	Number	Number
1		<i>Citrullus amarus</i> Schrad. citron, <u>citron-melon</u>	200	500	11	310
		<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai var. <i>caffer</i> (Schrad.) Mansf. <u>citron, citron-melon</u>	see <i>Citrullus amarus</i>			
		<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai var. <i>citroides</i> (L. H. Bailey) Mansf. citron, <u>citron-melon</u>	see <i>Citrullus amarus</i>			

Table 6A. Methods of testing for laboratory germination.

Kind of Seed	Substrata ^a	Temperature (°C)	First count (days)	Final count (days)	Specific requirements and notes	Dormant seed ^f
<i>Citrullus amarus</i> citron, <u>citron-melon</u>	T, B	20-30	7	14	Soak seeds 6 hr	Test at 30°C
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> var. <i>caffer</i> citron, <u>citron-melon</u>	see <i>Citrullus amarus</i>					
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> var. <i>citroides</i> citron, <u>citron-melon</u>	see <i>Citrullus amarus</i>					

Volume 3. Uniform Classification of Weed and Crop Seeds (if adopted, changes will be made to all sections of Vol. 3)

Nomen #	Scientific name	Common name	Family	Spp class	CONTAMINATING CLASSIFICATION						
					A	F	H	R	S	T	V
468434	<i>Citrullus amarus</i> Schrad.	citron; <u>citron-melon</u>	Cucurbitaceae	V	C	C	C	C	C	C	C

CUCURBITACEAE, CUCURBIT FAMILY

Citrullus amarus, citron, [citron-melon](#)

Citrullus lanatus subsp. *lanatus*, watermelon

Cucumis melo, muskmelon or cantaloupe

Cucumis sativus, cucumber

Cucurbita spp., pumpkin and squash

Harmonization and Impact Statement:

The Federal Seed Act defines *Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai var. *citroides* (L.H. Bailey) Mansf., which according to GRIN is a synonym of *Citrullus amarus* Schrad., as a vegetable kind with the common name citron melon (a member of the Cucurbitaceae or cucurbit family). This proposal would align the common name for *Citrullus amarus* with the Federal Seed Act (2020).

The Canadian Methods and Procedures lists citron as the common names for *Citrullus lanatus* var. *citroides* (for grade table XVII for various species in Cucurbitaceae or the cucurbit family).

Both citron and citron-melon are used in literature and regulation for the species *Citrullus amarus* and its synonyms; therefore, both names should appear in the AOSA Rules.

There is some confusion over the common name 'citron' as it also applies to *Citrus medica* L. (Citrus Citron Group) a member of the Rutaceae or citrus family.

Supporting Evidence:

Citrullus amarus (citron or citron-melon) is a prostrate summer annual vine producing semi-spherical fruits resembling small watermelons that is native to southern Africa (Deane, 2021; DiTomaso & Healy, 2007; USDA-GRIN 2021). The species is grown commercially for the fruit rind that is typically eaten only after cooking, while the white flesh is usually considered inedible. The rind of citron-melon is used in preserves or is candied and used in baked goods (Deane, 2021; DiTomaso & Healy, 2007; Everett, 1981). When found in commercial watermelon fields, citron-melon is an undesirable field contaminant because it can hybridize with watermelon resulting in production of inferior fruit (DiTomaso & Healy, 2007).

Synonyms for *Citrullus amarus* Schrad. (current accepted scientific name according to USDA-GRIN, 2021) include *Citrullus caffer* Schrad.; *Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai var. *citroides* (L. H. Bailey) Mansf.; *Citrullus lanatus* (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai var. *caffer* (Schrad.) Mansf.; and *Citrullus vulgaris* Schrad. var. *citroides* L. H. Bailey.

Citrus medica (citron) is a woody species and close relative of the orange (*Citrus xaurantium* L. var. *sinensis* L.) and is grown for its fragrant fruits with thick rinds, which are used in jams and marmalades and are candied and used in fruit cakes (Everett, 1981; van Wyk, 2005). The fruit of *C. medica* looks like a large warty lemon but has a thick rind that represents up to 70% of the fruit weight (van Wyk, 2005). Fruit of this species is used in Corsica to make the liqueur called cédratine (van Wyk, 2005).

According to USDA-GRIN (2021) and other sources, the common name citron is most appropriately applied to *Citrus medica* L. (Citrus Citron Group) (Table 1). Also, according to USDA-GRIN (2021) and other sources the common name citron-melon, as well as fodder melon, preserving melon, stock melon, and tsamma melon are common names applied to *Citrullus amarus* Schrad. (Table1).

Table 1. Common names for *Citrus medica* L. and *Citrullus amarus* Schrad. (and synonyms).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Source
<i>Citrus medica</i> L. (Citrus Citron Group)	citron	USDA-GRIN (2021)
<i>Citrus medica</i>	citron	Hortus Third (Bailey & Bailey, 1976)
<i>Citrus medica</i>	citron	The New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening (Huxley et al., 1992)
<i>Citrus medica</i>	citron	Food Plants of the World (van Wyk, 2005)
<i>Citrus medica</i>	citron	World Economic Plants (Wiersema & León, 1999)
<i>Citrullus amarus</i> Schrad.	citron-melon fodder melon preserving melon stock melon tsamma melon	USDA-GRIN (2021)
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> (Thunb.) Matsum. & Nakai var. <i>citroides</i> (L. H. Bailey) Mansf.	citron preserving melon	Hortus Third (Bailey & Bailey, 1976)
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> var. <i>citroides</i>	citron preserving melon	The New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening (Huxley et al., 1992)
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> var. <i>citroides</i>	citron-melon	Federal Seed Act (2020)
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> var. <i>citroides</i>	citron	Canadian Methods & Procedures for Seed Testing (2016)
<i>Citrullus lanatus</i> var. <i>citroides</i>	citron-melon preserving-melon stock-melon	World Economic Plants (Wiersema & León, 1999).
<i>Citrullus vulgaris</i> var. <i>citroides</i>	citron preserving melon citron melon	Bailey (1930)

References

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