

2024 Rule Proposal 6

Purpose of Proposal: To amend species class and contaminating classification for *Trifolium michelianum* (Big-flowered) and to add the common name balansa clover in AOSA Rules Volume 3. Uniform Classification of Weed and Crop Seeds.

Present Rule:

NOMEN #	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	SPP. CLASS	CONTAMINATING CLASSIFICATION						
					A	F	H	R	S	T	V
300620	<i>Trifolium michelianum</i> <i>Savi</i>	clover, big-flowered	Fabaceae	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W

Proposed Rule:

NOMEN #	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	SPP. CLASS	CONTAMINATING CLASSIFICATION						
					A	F	H	R	S	T	V
300620	<i>Trifolium michelianum</i> <i>Savi</i>	clover, big-flowered; clover, balansa	Fabaceae	W A	W C	W	W	W	W	W	W

Harmonization statement:

Trifolium michelianum is not currently listed in the Federal Seed Act or the Canadian Methods and Procedures for Testing Seeds. The International Rules for Seed Testing list *T. michelianum* in Table 2C Part 1. Lot sizes and sample sizes: agricultural and vegetable seeds.

Supporting evidence:

Balansa clover (*Trifolium michelianum*) is an annual, self-regenerating forage legume introduced from Turkey and has been used in Western Australia since the mid-1980s.ⁱ

Balansa clover is utilized as either a forage or as a cover crop. It produces a highly nutritious forage and can be grown as a silage crop preceding silage corn. Tonnage exceeds 10 tons of dry matter with a crude protein level > 23%. As a cover crop, it can easily contribute nitrogen to the following crop at the rate of > 150 lbs. per acre at a cost of less than \$25 per acre.

In the past 10 years the market for balansa clover in North America has grown from less than 20,000 pounds to close to 2,000,000 pounds. It is presently the fourth most popular clover by volume following red, crimson, and white clovers. With the growing popularity of cover crops it is estimated that the market for balansa clover could double in size by 2030, putting the volume of seed movement in the future on par with that of white clover.ⁱⁱ

The classification scheme of *T. michelianum* in Volume 3 has become outdated. It is recommended that the species classification scheme be amended to reflect the current use of this species and resemble that of similar *Trifolium* species used as forage and cover crops.

With adoption this proposed change, the species classification of *T. michelianum* will become agricultural, when found as a contaminant in other agricultural kinds it will be classified as other

crop seed, and when found as a contaminant in other species classes it will remain under its current status as a weed seed.

References:

ⁱ [Balansa clover \(*Trifolium michelianum*\) in Western Australia | Agriculture and Food](#)

ⁱⁱ Jerry Hall, Co-founder, President of Grassland Oregon; [BALANSA CLOVER | Cover Crops | Go Seed](#)

Submitted by, Rachel Henricks, 263 West 1st St. Halsey, Oregon 97348
Phone: 541-369-2236 Fax: 1-541-636-2451 email: rachel.henricks@gmail.com

Date Submitted: 10/5/2023

NOTE: This proposal was reviewed by the Co-chairs of the Purity Subcommittee (6-2-2023)