

2024 RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL 7

Purpose of Proposal: To reclassify the species class of *Thelesperma filifolium* to Flower (F) and Range (R) in the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds Volume 3, and to change the “contaminating classifications” to crop based on the usage of this genus, since it is sold as reclamation and wildflower seed in commerce.

Present Rule:

none

Proposed Rule: *Thelesperma filifolium.*, *stiff greenthread*, *Asteraceae*

Nomen #	Scientific name	Common name	Family	Spp class	CONTAMINATING CLASSIFICATION						
					A	F	H	R	S	T	V
317113	<i>Thelesperma filifolium</i>	Stiff greenthread	Asteraceae	F, R	W	C	W	C	W	W	W

Harmonization: There is no harmonization with the ISTA Rules or the Canadian M & P in this proposal. The ISTA Rules and the Canadian M & P do not classify weed and crop seed through the AOSA Rules Volume 3. The Federal Seed Act Regulations, based on the statement “general usage” in section 201.49 (Other crop seed), determines the classification of a contaminating species using the AOSA Rules Volume 3. The impact on the seed industry would be to recognize the genus in this proposal as being in commerce. Classifying this Genus as flower (F) and range (R) under the species class and as “other crop” (C) instead of “weed seed” (W) in the appropriate contaminant classification categories.

Supporting Evidence: *Thelesperma* spp. or greenthread is a genus native to North and South America, composed of herbaceous annuals and perennials with small yellow flowers and thin leaves. All species found in the U.S. are native to the lower 48 states. *Thelesperma filifolium* is particularly common in Texas as a rangeland flower that blooms profusely. It thrives in disturbed areas and provides a source of nectar for pollinators where there may be little else. The seeds provide a food source as well for granivorous birds. Currently greenthread species are being sold as wildflowers by companies that specialize in reclamation and native flower seeds.

References:

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=THFIF

https://www.wildflower.org/plants/search.php?search_field=thelesperma&family=Acanthaceae&newsearch=true&demo=

Companies selling *Thelesperma filifolium*:

westernnativeseed.com

everwilde.com

avseeds.com

applewoodseeds.com

wildseedfarms.com

trueleafmarket.com (in their Texas/Oklahoma wildflower mix)

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Note: Proposal was reviewed by Purity Subcommittee Co-chairs Nishit Patel and Deborah Meyer.