

8/16/18

Genetic Technology Committee Report

The genetic technology committee of the SCST met on June 5th at Raleigh, NC. The meeting was led by Co-chairs Anna Doornink and Brad Johnson. The genetic technology committee covers three main areas of genetic testing: Trait Purity, Genetic Purity, and Adventitious Presence. From the Board of Examiners, it was reported that one person took the exam and passed.

Discussion included the Genetic Super Workshop held in Ames, IA at the beginning of February 2018. This was reported as a successful workshop and preliminary planning was started for the future workshop to be held in early 2020. The RGT exam may be offered after the workshop in 2020. A long discussion was held about proficiency testing and working with ISTA (International Seed Testing Association) to provide genetic proficiency tests for both the SCST and ISTA. This included Ray Shillito presenting the table that Brent Reschly, Brenda Johnson, and himself worked on with ISTA. SCST would do the “grunt” work, and then be allowed to participate in the ISTA proficiency test. A soybean proficiency test was suggested for this fall.

Regarding continuing education points, the teaching and training committee is looking for genetic testing webinars. SCST members cannot get points for our own proficiency tests, but can get points from other organizations, such as GIPSA. Other areas where points may be awarded include publishing in the Seed Journal, Research and Poster presentations, and Research Papers.

Testing of *Amaranthus* spp. using genetic technologies was discussed. It is possible to distinguish Palmer Amaranth from other *Amaranthus* spp. using genetic testing. More states are adding these spp. to their noxious weed seed lists driving the need to be able to distinguish them.

Regarding Cannabis, due to interest in its testing and growing list of approved uses, we will plan a workshop focused on quality testing for next year’s annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Doornink, RGT, co-chair
Brad Johnson, RST/RGT, co-chair