Rules Proposal – Sweet Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)

1. **Purpose of Proposal**: To add Top of Blotters to the list of substrata to be available to use for planting Sweet Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*).

2. **Present Rule:**

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]
Ocimum basilicum Sweet Basil	B, T	20-30		14	KNO_3. Make first count when necessary or desirable.	

3. **Proposed Rule:**

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]
Ocimum basilicum Sweet Basil	B, T, **TB**	20-30		14	KNO_3. Make first count when necessary or desirable.	

4. **Harmonization and Impact Statement:**

   There are no current methods present for *Ocimum basilicum* in the Canadian Methods and Procedures. This rules proposal aligns with current ISTA Methods of TP.

Table 5A. Part 1. Detailed Methods for Germination Tests: Seeds of Agricultural, Vegetable, Flower, Spice, Herb, and Medicinal Species (Continued).

Species	Substrate	Temperature (°C)	First Count (D)	Final Count (D)	Recommendations for Breaking Dormancy	Additional Directions	Additional Advice	Seedling Evaluation Group
Ocimum basilicum	TP	20-30	4	14	KNO_3	-	-	A-2-1-1-1

Definition of Substrate:

TP: The seeds are germinated on top of one or more layers of paper which are placed:

- *on the Jacobsen apparatus (5.5.3.1);*
- *into transparent boxes or Petri dishes which may be placed in a flat or inclined position. The appropriate quantity of water is added at the beginning of the test and evaporation may be minimized by a tightly fitting lid or by enclosing the dishes in plastic bags;*
- *directly on trays in germination incubators which may be placed in a flat or inclined position. The relative humidity in the incubators must then be maintained at a level that prevents tests drying out. Moistened porous paper or absorbent cotton can be used as a base for the substrates.*

A. This update will assist with the time factor that is involved in seed testing. Quality is always the ultimate priority in seedling evaluation. However, there is an efficiency factor that needs to be involved in our day-to-day tasks. Based on the referee results, it shows that Top of Blotters is a more efficient way to process *Ocimum basilicum*.
B. This rules proposal should not impact other rules volumes.

5. **Supporting Evidence:**
See Supporting Evidence A (physical data) and Supporting Evidence B (referee presentation with data analysis).

6. **Submitted By:**
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7. **Date of Submission:**
Saturday, September 13th, 2025