

Seed Connection

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FALL/WINTER 2011

Welcome Back!

It has been a long time coming, but our newsletter has emerged once again! We would like to invite you to leaf through and to get acquainted with us a little better.

Our goal here at the WSDA Seed Program is to inform you of what is going on in our Program and in the seed industry, to keep you informed of the changes in the industry and to make you aware of our on-going efforts to make our Program better serve you.

About Us

The WSDA Seed Program is the only official seed testing laboratory in Washington. WSDA's Seed Program operates the certification program for agricultural seeds in Washington under the auspices of the national Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA), and the international Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The program includes field inspection, seed testing, record keeping, and documentation. Wheat, barley, oat, triticale, buckwheat, chickpea, field pea, lentil, and forest reproductive material are inspected and documented under agreement with Washington State Crop Improvement Association, a non-profit organization. We are nestled in the heart of the beautiful Yakima Valley and have been in business for over 100 years. Our program exists to deliver unbiased services to customers in the seed industry.

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Our Mission

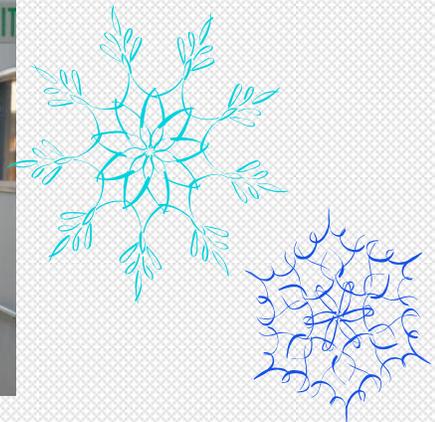
The WSDA Seed Program is committed to providing accurate, timely and highest quality field inspections, seed analysis, phyto-sanitary services and related certification services while continually striving for improvement in methods and technologies to assure our success and the success of our stakeholders.

Phyto-sanitary Inspection, Testing & Certification

WSDA's Seed Program provides field inspection and lab exams for compliance with import requirements of other states or foreign countries. In most cases, the field inspection and lab exams are a visual determination for the presence of diseases, pests, soil and invasive weeds according to the importing country's requirements. Industry demand for phyto-sanitary services is showing a steady increase as greater quantities of seed are exported. We are certified by the USDA/Aphis with four ACO's to issue federal phyto-sanitary certificates allowing the export and re-export of seed. If you would like more information on this, please contact our office.



Our WSDA Seed Program staff



Inside our lab you will find our 12 analysts diligently working on samples we've received. We currently house 7 Registered Seed Technologists and Certified Seed Analysts (RST's & CSA's) as well as two Certified Viability Technicians. The job of a Seed Analyst requires an understanding of science, technology & receiving on-going training. Our analysts attend trainings all over the country to sharpen their skills and expand their knowledge.

The WSDA Seed Program has three full-time Field Inspectors that are trained to certify seed fields and draw official samples upon request. They are licensed to draw Certified Seed Samples, ISTA samples, Orange Tag requests (for the Quality Timothy Program) and conduct Visual Phyto Exams. As the year progresses, the number of field Inspectors increases to ten and with two more Inspectors available for Official Sampling.

ac'cred'i'ta'tion

What it means for you

We are proud to announce that our program has successfully become certified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001:2008. To earn this, the Program was required to develop and implement a quality management system based on ISO 9001:2008 Standards. We also were required to be audited on-site based on our quality system. This was a long, tedious process that we worked tirelessly at and we are very proud of this accomplishment! You may wonder why that matters to you-- here's why!

It means that our entire Seed Program operates under a Quality Management System to provide accurate, uniform, timely and quality services. It means essentially that we say what we do, and we do what we say throughout every process. Our customers can have continued confidence that their seed tests and inspections are being conducted by a team of professionals who are committed to providing the most superior services for all of their seed needs.

Another milestone that ISO 9001:2008 Certification set the stage for is ASL Accreditation. In November 2011 the seed laboratory successful passed the ASL audit and is now operates as a USDA Processed Varied Program as an Accredited Seed Laboratory.



Paperless Possibilities

Whether you're trying to save space, time, money or the earth, going paperless is an excellent way to do it! We are now capable of sending lab reports, billing invoices, field data processing, etc electronically. If you would like more information, please contact us at:

509-249-6950 OR toll-free at 866-865-6137

Pure Harvest

is a secure web-based software program that allows users to view their field and sample information online. Users can log onto the system 24 hours a day 7 days a week to see test results, field data and print reports. It is confidential, no one can see others information.

- Free set up and unlimited usage
- View preliminary progress on your sample
- View field inspection data
- Reports are available in a paperless version via email
- Real-time email updates every time progress is made on a sample

Paired Germination testing

As of October 2011, we will no longer be conducting Paired Germination Tests on *Linum lewisii* (Lewis Flax) because it has been proven there is a negligible amount of difference between pre-chilling and not pre-chilling this seed prior to planting. This change was implemented by AOSA.

Secure Your Seeds

Here are a few tips to remember when sending your seed in for testing.

- **Please write clearly!** We need to be able to distinguish between an O and a 0 & a 1 and an I...**especially in lot numbers!**
- **Include all company information!** There are many companies with multiple addresses and we need to know where exactly to send results, billing, etc.
- **Include all certification information.** In order for us to check in your certified sample, we need certification information: e.g. Field number, Certification number, etc.
- **Protect your sample!** Your parcels may become damaged and/or contaminated if they are not properly packaged. Make sure you add proper padding and seal your sample completely.
- **Double check your information to make sure it is complete and correct.**

Remember, your samples have a long, bumpy trip to our lab and it's common for damages to occur- let's work together and prevent this from happening.



Have you ever wondered what kind of equipment we use here at the Seed Lab?

Vacuum Planting System

Our lab is equipped with vacuum planters used for planting various crops. Use of these planters ensures that each seed receives optimum conditions for growing, uniformity of spacing and speediness of planting.

Germination Monitoring System

The germination system that we use is constantly and consistently monitored to ensure that each germinator maintains the correct temperatures and the lights are functioning correctly. If anything is to go off course after business hours, an alarm is sent out via telephone message to one of our staff members.

Ergonomic Microscopes

All of our analysts use ergonomically designed microscopes. This helps to reduce physical fatigue while they work and helps to ensure quality & consistent results.

Seed Counting Machine

We are the proud owners of a Mechanical Seed Counter. This machine has proved to improve our accuracy and turn-around time in conducting seed counts.



Vacuum planting head used for planting grass, we also use them for planting small grains and other small seeded crops.



Ergonomic microscope-this particular one is used for conducting TZ tests.



Our Mechanical Seed Counting machine.

We offer a wide range of testing to fill your needs!

- Purity, Noxious (All-States & individual states) & Sod Quality Exams
- Germination
- Tetrazolium (TZ) & Dormant TZ
- Clearfield tests
- Ammonia & Fluorescence tests
- Cold tests
- Moisture tests
- Sodium Hydroxide tests
- Quality Timothy Exams
- Specialized Customer requests - Have it your way.

All of our testing is conducted using the AOSA Rules and Guidelines, ISTA Rules and Canadian Methods and Procedures.

ASSP

WSDA Offers Seed Testing for the AOSCA Alfalfa Seed Stewardship Program

The AOSCA Alfalfa Seed Stewardship Program (ASSP) provides a mechanism whereby the seed producer or contractor can work hand in hand with the Seed Certifying Agency to screen for the presence of the RR trait in conventional alfalfa seed production. This includes testing seed stock prior to planting, stricter field history and isolation to inspection of the field and the equipment, to ensuring that no RR alfalfa varieties are segregated at all times.

After meeting all ASSP program requirements seed lots will be issued an AOSCA Identity Preserved Certificate.

For sample submission or testing questions please contact the Seed Program Office.

Slow Cooker Lentil & Barley Soup

- 8 cups beef broth
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano leaves, crushed
- 4 large carrots, sliced (about 3 cups)
- 1 large onion, chopped (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 cup dried lentils
- 1/2 cup uncooked pearl barley

Stir the broth, garlic, oregano, carrots, onion, lentils and barley in a 3 1/2-to 6-quart slow cooker.

Cover and cook on LOW for 8 to 9 hours or until the lentils and barley are tender.

- *Time-Saving: The recipe may also be cooked on HIGH for 4 to 5 hours.*

Give it a try! It's delicious!

Seed Program Contacts

509-249-6950 OR toll-free at 866-865-6137.

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Application Due Dates

SEED LABELING PERMITS AND ASSESSMENT FEES - FEBRUARY 1

CANOLA APPLICATIONS:

- Fall Plantings – 60 DAYS AFTER PLANTING
- Spring Plantings – 21 DAYS AFTER PLANTING

SEEDLING APPLICATIONS:

- Alfalfa, Clover and Grasses - 60 DAYS AFTER PLANTING
(After 105 days may not be accepted)

PHYTOSANITARY APPLICATIONS

Western WA:

- Fall Plantings* – APRIL 15
- Spring Plantings* – JUNE 1

Eastern WA:

- Fall Plantings* – APRIL 15
- Spring Plantings* – 21 DAYS AFTER PLANTING
(Except Corn and Alfalfa)

Corn – JUNE 1

Alfalfa, and all other perennial crops – JUNE 1

FYI

This newsletter is provided as a way to inform you of the happenings in the Seed Program. Email any comments, suggestions or if you wish to be removed from our mailing list to:
Amanda Boehler at aboehler@agr.wa.gov