MINUTES
Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 14, 2010
Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach

Voting members present: Greg Bingaman, Gary Butler, Jim Cloud, Cynthia Ocamb by teleconference, Lowell Patterson, Darrin Walenta

Non-voting members present: Dan Curry, Dennis Lundeen

Members absent: Scott Gibson, Russ Karow, Scott Seus, Ryan Svaty

Guests Present: Ryan Clark, Randy Knight

1. The Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 AM by Greg Bingaman (substitute for Scott Gibson) for a breakfast meeting prior to the Oregon Essential Oil Growers League Annual Meeting.

2. The members and guests introduced themselves. Knight expressed appreciation that Lowell Patterson was willing to serve on the committee another three-year term that started in 2009 per request from the Oregon Mint Commission and Oregon Essential Oil Growers League. Knight pointed out that Ryan Svaty and Scott Gibson have asked to be replaced on the committee. Mike Seely has agreed to take Ryan’s position. Scott Seus has agreed to serve another term. Scott Seus and Mike’s term will begin at the close of the 2010 Certification Board meeting in February. Knight offered additional copies of the 2009 Directory of Oregon Certified Mint Rootstock to the committee.

3. The Chair called for additions to the agenda, and none were received.

4. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

5. Old Business
   None

6. New Business
   a) Consider a change to the mint standards to address the use of commercially produced potting media that has not been pasteurized or fumigated.

   Currently the standards require all soil, sand or potting mixtures used in the greenhouse for mint rootstock propagation be fumigated or pasteurized. Industry has been successfully using commercially produced potting media for more than 15 years that is not pasteurized or fumigated. Jim Cloud and Greg Bingaman testified to their success with potting media that hasn’t been fumigated or pasteurized. Randy Knight had recently inquired of four other greenhouse operations propagating potato mini tubers and mint that claimed long-time success with commercially produced potting media. Cynthia Ocamb commented that it was very unlikely that the packaged and sealed commercially produced potting media would contain verticillium. Cindy expressed a desire to check with some other colleagues to confirm her position. Dennis Lundeen thought that the current wording in our standards might not be practical. Greg Bingaman said since the industry has been using potting media that is working for them, and will likely continue to do so, that recognizing the fact in the standards would make sense. We don’t want to have something in the standards that is not
attainable. Cindy commented that it might be too restrictive to require only peat based potting media since there would likely be other material that would be necessary to use as a substitute due to short supply and would be equally acceptable. Cindy also noted from her experience that fumigation my not be as effective in controlling pathogens as pasteurization due to the difference in mode of action. Lowell Patterson pointed out that the propagator’s reputation is dependent on using potting media that would not increase his risk of acquiring verticillium, thus reducing the potential for problems. A motion passed to amend the standards to read “All soil, sand and bulk unsealed potting media used in a greenhouse must be pasteurized or fumigated with approved material and rates. Commercially produced potting media packaged in sealed containers must be stored and handled to prevent any contamination with verticillium.”

Reports

a) Mint Rootstock Certification

Randy Knight reported that one greenhouse operation produced two lots of Nuclear generation rooted cuttings. These were the public varieties Mitcham and M837 peppermint. No spearmint varieties were certified. For field-produced rootstock, no acreage was entered for certification in Program A, the Strict Land Requirements Program. One grower in Benton county produced two lots of Mitcham peppermint from two acres and one lot of M837 from 1.5 acres for certification. This production was entered into Program B, the Field Class Program. All three lots passed full certification requirements. Acreage in the certification program was up from 1.6 acres in 2008.

b) Seed Services Report

Dan Curry reported that OSU Seed Certification acres for 2009 were 233,011. This was down 4% from the previous year. The OECD shipments of grass were down 28% from record export numbers in 2008.

A subcommittee from the OSU Cereals Advisory is reviewing a request that Seed Certification must test for the Clearfield trait in wheat and ensure that all certified Clearfield wheat seed fields have been sprayed with Beyond herbicide as part of the certification process.

The next meeting of the Certification and Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Board is set for February 11 at the LeSells Stewart Center.

The OSU Seed Lab is now an accredited ISTA lab. The lab will be hosting a Seed Quality workshop on January 28 and 29. The seed lab celebrated its 100th year of service by hosting an open house on November 18, 2009.

Dennis Lundeen reported that new plantings for certification are down 10% from a year ago. Most of that reduction is from reduced plantings of tall fescue and perennial ryegrass. Dennis asked the group to check with Seed Certification if material from MIRC is moving to a greenhouse for further propagation and certification. The greenhouse material must be inspected by a certification agency prior to moving it to the field.

c) OSU Crop & Soil Science Department Report

Dan Curry distributed a report to the committee identifying the highlights of activities over the past months in Crop and Soil Science (CSS) as they affect clientele groups affiliated with CSS. The Dean of Agriculture, Dr. Ramaswamy is preparing to make some organizational changes related to class structure and size. He has established a new
website to accommodate a newsletter that will provide updates on College of Ag Science activities.

Federal Budgets indicate good news regarding funding for barley, meadowfoam, grass seed, potatoes and STEEP research. Efforts have already begun to support funding for these same initiatives in 2011.

State budgets are faced with a 15% reduction and an additional 5% depending on the ballot initiative vote now in progress.

Oilseeds project work is moving into final phases. ODA Director Katy Coba has declared that no canola production for commercial seed or oil will be allowed in the Willamette Valley district. This is intended to protect the production of specialty seed and brassica vegetable production for present and future generations.

The seed lab has acquired a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer to determine oil, protein and moisture content on seeds.

7. Greg Bingaman was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair for the next year, and Scott Seus moves from Vice-Chair to Chair.

8. After this meeting it was determined that Scott Gibson is not available to serve as this committee’s representative at the 2010 Certification Board meeting.

9. Greg Bingaman adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:
Randy Knight
Secretary
Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee

The current Oregon Peppermint and Spearmint Rootstock Certification Standards, the current Directory of Oregon Certified Mint Rootstock, and minutes of recent Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee meetings are available at the OSU Seed Certification website (http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu/) under the respective Mint or Advisory Committee headings.

1/21/10