

MINUTES

Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 13, 2011
Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach

Voting members present: Greg Bingaman, Gary Butler, Jim Cloud, Cynthia Ocamb by teleconference, Lowell Patterson, Mark Hagman, Scott Seus

Non-voting members present: Dan Curry, Russ Karow

Members absent: Mike Seely, Dennis Lundeen, Darrin Walenta

Guests Present: Carol Mallory-Smith, Andrew Hulting, Bo Ming Wu, Jason Puckett, Randy Knight

1. The Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 AM by Scott Seus for a breakfast meeting prior to the Oregon Essential Oil Growers League Annual Meeting.
2. The members and guests introduced themselves. The committee recognized new members Mike Seely and Mark Hagman.
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) Review of the objectionable weed list associated with rootstock production.

Knight said he had asked the OSU Weed Science Program to identify weeds that they would recommend be removed or added to the objectionable weeds listed in the current Mint Rootstock Certification Standards. A list was presented to the committee for consideration. After considerable discussion it was decided that some additional weeds should be added to the current list in the Mint Standards. The committee asked Knight if he would send the committee the Oregon Department of Agriculture noxious weed list by email for them to review. Other weeds of concern to the committee but not previously identified were kochia, groundsel, horehound and starthistle. It was suggested that a tiered weed list might be appropriate. The list would identify certain weeds as more problematic than others with different consequences if found in the field producing Certified rootstock. The committee also felt it might be necessary to identify a specific buffer zone when objectionable weeds are found. It was noted that it was important to be able to exclude unacceptable areas of the field without rejecting the entire field for certification eligibility. The committee recognized that in the continued effort to find land that has not been exposed to *verticillium* there was an increasing chance to encounter weeds that had not previously been a problem in mint rootstock.

Knight pointed out to the committee that all weeds are identified during the mint rootstock field inspection. The weeds are included in the report to the applicant. It would be up to the applicant (seller) if he wanted to share the results of the field inspection with the buyer. The

committee thought this would be helpful information to the buyer, especially if the buyer was not from the same geographical area that the roots were produced. The committee wanted the buyer to be aware that the field inspection report was available. One suggested area of notice could be in the form of an asterisk on the annual publication of the Directory of Oregon Mint Rootstock.

The committee agreed to pursue the topic of weeds in mint rootstock over the next year, primarily by email, and come to the next annual meeting with a recommendation on how to proceed with changes to the Standards. Knight agreed to facilitate that effort in any way he could.

b) Discuss plans for handling and distributing GMO rootstock (Mike Seely)

The committee agreed that it was not too early to get this subject on the radar for discussion. The production of certified GMO rootstock may require a review of field history requirements in the Rootstock Certification Standards. The committee thought it was important to solicit input from the MIRC prior to next years Mint Rootstock Committee annual meeting and invite an MIRC representative to attend. Specific people currently associated with the MIRC that could be contacted would be Rocky Lundy, Tim Butler and John Reerslev. Dan Curry told the group that Clearfield wheat has a trait that is currently being verified by certification agencies in some states. Tea leaves were mentioned as a topic of concern related to GMO mint production. Knight agreed to contact the committee members to remind them of the GMO topic over the next year and invite an MIRC representative to the 2012 Mint Rootstock annual meeting next January.

7. Reports

a) Mint Rootstock Certification

Randy Knight reported that two greenhouse operations produced three 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 Crook county produced one lot of Mitcham peppermint from twenty acres. One grower in Harney county produced one lot of Mitcham from 1.5 acres and one lot of Murray Mitcham 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 3.5 acres in 2009.

b) Seed Services Report

Dan Curry reported that OSU Seed Certification acres for 2010 were 193,458. This was down 17% from the previous year. There has been considerable decline in the Tall Fescue, Perennial Ryegrass and Kentucky Blugrass acreage. The OECD shipments of grass were up 7% from export numbers in 2009.

Dan said there is a possible certification fee increase planned. The last fee change was in 2003.

An effort is being made by Seed Certification personnel to check all automatic samplers to verify their correct operation.

The next meeting of the Certification and Foundation Seed and Plant Materials Board is set for February 8 at the LeSells Stewart Center.

Dan provided a handout explaining the activity associated with the Seed Lot Size Experiment. Thirteen warehouses have signed up to participate and there is room for two more.

The OSU Seed Lab is working on a project that would shorten the current fourteen day

requirement to seven days for annual ryegrass germination and fluorescence tests. This is an effort to accommodate earlier shipments into early Fall markets. The OSU Seed Lab has been authorized to train personnel from other seed certification agencies to be ISTA accredited samplers.

c) OSU Crop & Soil Science Department Report

Russ Karow 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 College of Ag Sciences is in the process of merging the Crop and Soil Science and Horticulture departments. In addition, Animal Science and Rangeland Ecology and Management will be merged into a single department. Federal Budgets indicate mixed results for Ag related competitive research grants. State budgets do not look favorable for Ag Experiment Station, Extension Service activities.

Dr. Bob Zemetra has been hired as the new leader for the OSU wheat breeding program. The OSU Cereal Biotechnologist and OSU Potato breeder have left for International positions and the likelihood of refilling their positions in the short-term is slim.

8. Mark Hagman was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair for the next year, and Greg Bingaman moves from Vice-Chair to Chair.
9. Mark Hagman agreed to serve as this committee's representative at the Certification Board meeting in February.
10. Scott Seus adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:45 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.