

# MINUTES

## Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 2024 @ 7:30 am  
Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach

**Voting members present:** Erin McGreer, Max Nilsson, Jeff Cloud, Scott Setniker, Daniel Keudell, Greg Bingaman, Macey Wessels.

**Non-voting members present:** Andrew Altishin, Jeremiah Dung, Terry Burr- Secretary.

**Members absent:** Darrin Walenta, Thomas Chastain, Dan Curry.

**Guest present:** Kale Bingaman

1. The Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30 AM by Max Nilsson, prior to the Oregon Essential Oil Growers League Annual Meeting. Breakfast was provided.
2. The members and guest introduced themselves.
3. The Minutes of the 2023 meeting was motioned to accept as written, by Daniel and seconded by Scott.
4. The Chair called for additions to the agenda and none were received.
5. **Old Business:**

The Mint rootstock that was supposed to be planted in the Umatilla area last year did not get signed up for certification and some rootstock was sold as Uncertified. The fields were inspected by ODA.

6. **New Business:**  
No New Business brought forward to the committee.

7. **Reports**
  - a) **Mint Rootstock Certification: Terry Burr**

Certified Mint rootstock acres were down 100 percent, as no acres were applied for in 2023.

# **OSU Crop & Soil Science Department Report, Thomas Chastain By Andrew Altishin**

## **OSU Update January 2024**

The following are highlights of activities in Crop and Soil Science (CSS) and the College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) as they affect clientele groups affiliated with CSS.

### **Crop and Soil Science**

#### Personnel

- Assistant Professor (Practice) Extension – Mid Valley and North Valley positions. Interviews will take place in late January and early February.
- Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Weed Science – Corvallis. The position search has been extended to add more candidates to the pool.
- Assistant Professor (Practice) Extension – Condon. Search closed on November 9th.
- Assistant Professor of Soil Microbiology and Ecology – Corvallis. The search committee has worked on the PD.
- Department Head and Professor – Crop and Soil Science. Dr. Joey Spatafora, Department Head of Botany and Plant Pathology is the Chair of the Search Committee. The committee will be meeting soon.

#### News

Planning has begun for Hyslop Farm Field Day – this year's event is scheduled for May 22nd.

Several CSS faculty were recipients of awards last month. These include Navneet Kaur – 2023 OSUEA Newer Extension Faculty Award; Larry Lutcher – 2023 Oregon Agricultural Extension Association's Distinguished Service Award; Shaun Townsend and John Henning - Journal of Plant Registrations Outstanding Paper Award for 2023, and Thomas Chastain – 2023 Seedsman of the Year, Oregon Seed Council.

**OSU Seed Services, Dan Curry**  
**By Andrew Altishin**

**Seed Services Update**  
January 11, 2024

A team of Certification specialists and other seed industry professionals increased a small amount of Gulf annual ryegrass to 50 lbs. of breeder seed. The Oregon Ryegrass Commission hired a seed stock grower last year in Washington to grow two acres of Foundation Gulf. Six hundred pounds of clean seed was harvested this year and passed with Foundation tags. The seed is stored in an Oregon warehouse and will be distributed as needed.

The Tall Fescue Commission hired the same Washington grower to raise two acres of Foundation Kentucky 31 for two seasons. A little over six hundred pounds of clean seed have been shipped to Oregon and tagged at the Foundation level. The Tall Fescue commission has a subcommittee that will distribute the seed to Oregon growers.

An ISTA sub-committee is working on developing a PCR test that would distinguish the difference between annual and perennial ryegrass. Multiple primers (short stretches of DNA) have been sent to four labs, including the OSU Seed Lab. Once the best primer and technique have been developed, they will be shared with some international seed labs, to test the efficacy. It is hoped that a protocol using the new primer will be approved by both AOSA and ISTA to distinguish between annual and perennial ryegrass.

A team of researchers have been assembled to use computer vision, neural networks, and robotics to develop a prototype machine that could be used to sort off-type seed from pure grass seed. Two grants will support the work of the multi-disciplinary team for the next couple of years.

# Seed Certification report

Andrew Altishin

## 2023 Year in Review

**Total Acres Certified of all Crops – 201,546 (-6.5%)**  
**Total Acres of Grass Crops Certified – 160,954 (-9.7%)**  
    Tall fescue – 91,875 (-9.6%)  
    Perennial ryegrass – 28,917 (-17.3%)  
    K. Bluegrass – 9,194 (-9.4%)  
    Annual ryegrass – 6,932 (-11.8%)  
    Chewings fescue – 5,743 (-1.6%)  
**Total Acres of Small Grains Certified – 21,943 (3.2%)**  
    Wheat – 20,772 (5.2%)  
    Barley – 495 (-11.3%)  
    Oat – 424 (30.5%)  
    Triticale – 108 (-71.9%)  
    Club wheat – 0 (-100%)  
    Red oat – 144 (5.9%)  
    Cereal rye – 0 (nc)  
**Total Acres of Legumes Certified – 4,196 (-18.5%)**  
    Red clover – 2,881 (-20.9%)  
    Crimson clover – 46 (-85.6%)  
**Total Acres of Misc. Other Crops Certified – 14,453 (34.9%)**  
    Radish – 1,824 (95.1%)  
    Hybrid Canola – 3,673 (100%)  
Total Acres of Potatoes Certified – 3,277 (6.3%)  
Total Acres of PVG Certified – 155 (44.9%)  
    Sunflowers – 2,555 (21%)  
Total Acres of Corn – 2,649 (-6.2%)  
**Active Warehouses in 2023 – 179 (5.4%)**  
**Active Growers in 2023 – 608 (-5.4%)**  
**Total Acres Mint – 0 (-100%)**

### Updates

- Jeff McMorran retired
- John Zielinski retiring
- Chris Wallace retiring
- Brenda Allison – Yamhill, Polk and Washington Co. sampler
- Karen Courtney – Union/Umatilla sampler
- Programmer/Analyst

OSCS Staffing

- 3 Administrative staff
  - 2 Information Technology Staff
  - 5 Seed Certification Specialists
  - 4 Part-time/seasonal Seed Certification Specialists
  - 6 Seed Certification Samplers
  - 1 Manager and Seed Certification Specialist
  - Various part-time student employees (office and potato greenhouse)
8. Erin Mcgreer was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair for the next year. Jeff Cloud will move from Vice-Chair to Chair for 2025.
  9. Scott Setniker, Max Nilsson and Jeff Cloud volunteered to serve another 3-year term as the Valley, Union and Central Oregon, representatives via confirmation after the meeting.
  10. Scott Setniker agreed to serve as this committee's representative at the 2024 Certification Board meeting on February 7 2024.
  11. Max Nilsson adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:05 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Terry Burr

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 ([seedcert.oregonstate.edu](http://seedcert.oregonstate.edu)) under the respective Mint or Advisory Committee headings.

1/25/24