

2011 SEED REPORT

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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SEED REPORT - 2011

This is a report of the activities of the Seed Division from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. The Division is responsible for (1) administration and enforcement of the Pennsylvania Seed Act; (2) administration of the Seed Certification Act; (3) operation of the State Seed Laboratory; and (4) maintaining the seed herbarium.

PENNSYLVANIA SEED ACT

This report is a summary of official seed inspection and laboratory analyses performed on official samples of seeds drawn under the authority of the Pennsylvania Seed Act.

The Seed Act was amended in January 2005. There were significant changes to the Act, one being the requirement for all person(s) whose name appears on the seed analysis label must obtain an annual Seed License at a cost of \$25. You may find a copy of the Seed Act, license application and other seed related information at: www.agriculture.state.pa.us.

The Seed Act requires that all seeds be properly labeled before being offered for sale within the Commonwealth. The purpose of the Act is to insure that consumers are provided with truthful information in order to make an intelligent purchase. This information is required to be given on a tag or label attached in a conspicuous place on the exterior of the container in which the seed is sold or offered for sale. Seeds not properly labeled are subject to a "Stop Sale" order, which prohibits the sale of such seed until relabeled to be in compliance with the law.

The Pennsylvania Code Chapter 111 lists additional requirements for labeling seeds. Included are:

1. Labeling of flower seed mixtures
2. Labeling of lawn seed mixtures
3. Labeling of treated seeds
4. Labeling of seeds for sprouting
5. Germination standards for vegetable and flower seeds
6. List of prohibited noxious weed seeds
7. List of restricted noxious weed seeds including undesirable grass seed in lawn and turf seeds

The following booklets and leaflets are available from the Seed Program Supervisor (See address on page 1) or on the departments web site.

http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/pennsylvania_department_of_agriculture/10297

Pennsylvania Seed Act

Pennsylvania Code Chapter 111; Seed Testing, Labeling Standards

Pennsylvania Certification Act

API 19 Seed Testing Information

API 140 Calculation of Analysis when blending 2 or more seed lots

API 150 Labeling Vegetable and Herb Seed

API 153 Labeling Flower Seeds

API 157 Labeling Lawn and Turf Mixtures

SEED CERTIFICATION

The purpose of Seed Certification is to maintain and make available to the public sources of high quality seeds and propagating materials of superior varieties grown and distributed so as to insure genetic identity. Only after passing rigid field and seed standards can seed be labeled as a class of certified seed. For a summary of crop, variety and acres inspected see Table VI. For additional information contact the Seed Section Supervisor listed on page 1. The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is an active member of the Association of Official Seed Certification Agencies. A total of \$15,126.02 in fees was charged for field inspection, tags, labels and other services.

SEED LABORATORY

The Seed Laboratory provides technical information and performs various tests and analyses on seed samples from various sources. All seed samples are prepared and tested according to the "Rules for Testing Seeds" as approved and published by the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA). The Seed Laboratory is an active member of AOSA and cooperates in work of various committees.

A Seed Analyst attends the annual meeting of AOSA to vote on rule changes, discuss other items of business and attend committee meetings. An analyst also attends the Northeast Seed Analyst Workshop where new procedures are demonstrated. The Seed Analysts also identifies and tests seeds for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Animal Industry, the State Police Crime Laboratory and the general public.

The Department is also an active member of the Association of Seed Control Officials of the Northeastern States and the Association of American Seed Control Officials. A staff member usually attends the annual meeting of each organization.

Each year the Seed Analysts assist the small grain judge at the Pennsylvania Farm Show by examining each individual exhibit for noxious and common weed seeds, other crop seeds and foreign material.

During the fiscal year, the laboratory received a total of 6,958 samples, which required 10,152 separate tests (See Table I). Plant Industry Inspectors submitted 2,405 regulatory seed samples for enforcement of the Seed Act. Farmers, wholesale seedsmen and retail outlets submitted 4,352 service samples for labeling purposes and guidance in planting. The seed certification program and various other state agencies submitted 201 samples to determine if the seed met their standards or specifications. A total of \$65,694.02 in fees was charged for these services.