

## Rules Change Proposal – 1

**Purpose of Proposal:** To clarify the directions in the Rules for the alternate planting method for pelleted or film-coated onion seed.

### Present Rule:

#### 6.8 Special procedures and alternate methods for germination

- r. **Onion** (*Allium cepa*). – Alternate planting method for chemically treated and pelleted or film-coated onion seed when phytotoxicity is suspected in a standard germination test: Prepare organic growing media by combining fine (#3) vermiculite, dry peat moss and water at a 1:1:4 ratio. Mix planting substrate thoroughly to ensure media is adequately moistened. Plant seeds on paper toweling (T; see Section 6.9 a), cover evenly with prepared mixture. Fold and roll toweling. Germinate at 20°C for 10 days.

### Proposed Rule:

#### 6.8 Special procedures and alternate methods for germination

- r. **Onion** (*Allium cepa*). – Alternate planting method for chemically treated and pelleted or film-coated onion seed when phytotoxicity is suspected in a standard germination test: Prepare organic growing media by combining fine (#3) vermiculite, dry **fine** peat moss and water at a 1:1:4 ratio **by weight**. Mix planting substrate thoroughly to ensure media is adequately moistened. Plant seeds on **moistened** paper toweling (T; see Section 6.9 a), cover evenly with prepared mixture (**approximately 100 to 150 grams per replicate**). Fold and roll toweling. Germinate at 20°C for 10 days.

### Harmonization:

Organic growing media is currently specified in the ISTA Rules for use in the testing of sunflowers. There is currently no organic growing media method specified in the Canadian Methods and Procedures.

### Supporting Evidence:

Two referees were conducted in 2006 and 2007 using the organic media method described above for pelleted onions treated with the insecticide “Trigard.” These treated and pelleted onion samples exhibit symptoms of phytotoxicity when tested using the standard AOSA method for testing onion seeds. A new method was developed, and following the 2007 referee, Rule Change Proposal #18 was passed in 2008 introducing this new alternative method into the Rules (6.8 r).

The current Rules Proposal is an attempt to clarify the directions currently in the Rules in order to clear up any confusion in the wording of the present Rule.

References:

“Alternative Method for Coated Onion Treated with Pesticides” -- poster presented by Seminis and Incotec at the AOSA/SCST meeting in Cody, Wyoming, June 2007

2007 Pelleted Onion Referee, Region IV – Southwest (Sue Alvarez and Ha Ung)

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