

## Rule Change Proposal - 8

**Purpose:** To correct the improper assignment of pure seed unit definition for *Platyclusus orientalis* (oriental arborvitae).

**Present rule:**

**Table 2.4 Weights for working samples.**

Pure Seed Unit #	Kind of seed	Minimum weight for purity analysis <sup>a</sup>	Minimum weight for noxious-weed seed or bulk examination	Approximate number of seeds per gram <sup>b</sup>	Approximate number of seeds per ounce <sup>c</sup>
		Grams	Grams	Number	Number
4	<i>Platyclusus orientalis</i> (L.) Franco Oriental arborvitae, Chinese arborvitae	50		50	1,450

**Table 3A. Pure seed unit definitions**

PSU Number	Description of Pure Seed Unit
4	Seed with at least a portion of the seed coat attached, with or without wing(s). Piece of broken seed larger than one-half the original size with at least a portion of the seed coat attached.

**Proposed Rule:**

**Table 2.4 Weights for working samples.**

Pure Seed Unit #	Kind of seed	Minimum weight for purity analysis <sup>a</sup>	Minimum weight for noxious-weed seed or bulk examination	Approximate number of seeds per gram <sup>b</sup>	Approximate number of seeds per ounce <sup>c</sup>
		Grams	Grams	Number	Number
2	<i>Platyclusus orientalis</i> (L.) Franco Oriental arborvitae, Chinese arborvitae	50		50	1,450

**Table 3A. Pure seed unit definitions**

PSU Number	Description of Pure Seed Unit
2	Seed with at least a portion of the seed coat attached. Broken seed larger than one-half the original size with at least a portion of the seed coat attached. Special considerations: * For Fabaceae: Cotyledons that are broken apart but held together by the seed coat shall be classified as pure seed. Cotyledons that have separated and are not held together by the seed coat are regarded as inert matter irrespective of whether or not the radicle-plumule axis and/or more than half of the seed coat may be attached.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Wing, when present, is removed and considered inert matter.</li> <li>* Pericarp (fruit wall), when present on seeds of <i>Desmodium tortuosum</i>, <i>Hedysarum boreale</i>, and <i>Purshia tridentata</i> is removed and considered inert matter.</li> <li>* Weevil-infested vetch (<i>Vicia</i> spp.) and pea (<i>Pisum sativum</i>) seeds, irrespective of the amount of insect damage, are to be considered pure seed, unless they are broken pieces one-half the original size or less.</li> <li>* Chalcid-damaged seeds in Fabaceae that are puffy, soft, or dry and crumbly are considered inert matter.</li> </ul>
--	---

**Harmonization and impact statement:** This species is not covered by the Federal Seed Act, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency Methods and Procedures for Testing Seeds, or the International Seed Testing Association Rules for Seed Testing.

**Supporting evidence:** The seeds of the monotypic species *Platyclusus orientalis* (L.) Franco (oriental arborvitae), Cupressaceae) are not winged (Huxley, et al., 1992b); therefore, this species should not be included under PSU #4. This seed unit description is designed for species with winged seeds that may or may not still have wings attached after seed conditioning. This species was formerly placed under *Thuja*, a genus with winged seeds (Huxley, et al., 1992a). This is probably the reason why this species was originally assigned to PSU #4.

**Reference**

Huxley, A., M. Griffiths, and M. Levy. 1992a. The New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening. Vol. 3, L-Q. The Macmillan Press Limited, London. 790 pp.

Huxley, A., M. Griffiths, and M. Levy. 1992b. The New Royal Horticultural Society Dictionary of Gardening. Vol. 4, L-Q. The Macmillan Press Limited, London. 888 pp.

**Figure 1.** Seeds of *Platyclusus orientalis* (oriental arborvitae).



**Submitted by:** Deborah Meyer, Purity Subcommittee Chair, California Department of Food and Agriculture, (916) 262-1137, [dmeyer@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:dmeyer@cdfa.ca.gov).

**Date Submitted:** October 15, 2009