

## **Sample- Germination:**

Q: How long are cereals and small seeded legumes in the germinator?

A: 7 days

Q: How long are most grasses in the germinator?

A: 14-28 days

Q: When do we start Pre-chilling on samples and how long does it last?

A: Pre-chill starts mid August and ends Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. The Pre-chill is designed for new crops and lasts 5 to 7 days in addition to the normal germination time period.

Q: What is hard seed?

A: At the end of a testing period some seeds do not absorb water due to an impermeable seed coat. These seeds are considered good seeds and are added to the % germination to obtain total viable seed.

Q: What is dormant seed?

A: Seeds that fail to germinate during the specified germination time. This is a seed survival mechanism that still exists in many agriculture seed.

Q: How is % viable calculated?

A: Germination % + dormant seed = total viable

**Or** Germination % + hard seed = total viable

Q: At what times of the year do we perform a Barley Stripe Mosaic Virus (BSMV) test?

A: October, November, February, March

Q: What is an Ascochyta test?

A: This is a plate-grow-out test that determines the presence or absence of the ascochyta fungus on the seed surface. High levels of ascochyta blight can cause yield loss in pulse crops such as field pea, lentils, and chickpeas. This test is performed by the Plant Disease Lab and can take up to 2 weeks to see results.

## **Sample- Purity:**

Q: Approximately how long does a purity and noxious exam take on a grass sample?

A: Approximately 3 to 4 hours depending on species, cleanliness, and contaminants.

Q: Approximately how long does a purity and noxious exam on a cereal/alfalfa take?

A: Less than an hour depending on cleanliness and contaminants.

Q: What is the purity portion?

A: The portion of the sample that the purity analysis is made. The purity portion determines the percents by weighing pure seed, other crops & weeds, and inert matter.

Q: What is the noxious portion?

A: The portion of the sample that the noxious-weed seed examination is made.

Q: What is dividing?

A: A procedure used to prepare sample for a requested test. It thoroughly mixes the submitted sample and divides it down to the required weight.

Q: How does the lab avoid contamination?

A: The dividers, blowers, and containers used in the process are blown out using compressed air before and after each sample.

Q: What is considered inert?

A: Inert is anything present in the sample that is not pure seed. Examples of these contaminants are chaff, stems, awns, sterile florets, broken seed, rocks, soil, insect parts, rodent damage, treatment/ coating, etc.

Q: How does an analyst identify seeds?

A: Working knowledge, state seed herbarium, resource books, federal seed testing labs, collaboration with other labs.

Q: How long does it take for an analyst to become proficient in seed testing?

A: Approximately 5 years. This requires a person to become certified by passing a germination test and purity test given by the Association of Official Seed Analysts.

Q: How do we know how much seed to test for a purity and noxious exam?

A: The sample weights are based on the weight of 2500 seeds for a purity exam and 25,000 for a noxious exam.

Q: Why am I receiving a preliminary report?

A: The lab sends out a preliminary report showing the purity and/or TZ before the germ is complete.

Q: Where can I get a list of MT noxious weeds?

A: On the back of the report or on the website.

## **Billing:**

Q: When do I get billed?

A: After the sample is completed at the end of each month.

Q: Can I pay with a credit card?

A: Yes. Call the lab with credit card information after you receive the invoice

Q: What happens when the balance is not paid?

A: The balance is carried forward and you are invoiced the next month.

Q: Do I receive a receipt showing I paid the balance?

A: You will receive a receipt at the end of the following month showing your payment.

Q: What is PUREHARVEST?

A: Our online computer program that allows the grower to receive results faster by receiving an email as soon as the sample has been completed.