

MINUTES

Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 10, 2008
Salishan Lodge, Gleneden Beach

Voting members present: Gary Butler, Jim Cloud, Scott Gibson (Vice Chair), Cynthia Ocamb, Lowell Patterson, Craig Ward (Chair)

Non-voting members present: Dan Curry, Russ Karow, Dennis Lundeen

Members absent: Greg Bingaman, Scott Seus, Darrin Walenta

Guests Present: Randy Knight

1. The Oregon Mint Rootstock Certification Advisory Committee Meeting was called to order at approximately 6:55a.m. by Chair Craig Ward for a breakfast meeting prior to the Oregon Essential Oil Growers League Annual Meeting.
2. The members and guests introduced themselves. Knight welcomed new committee members Dr. Cynthia Ocamb (OSU pathologist) and Dennis Lundeen (Certification Project Manager). Knight expressed appreciation that Greg Bingaman was willing to serve on the committee another three-year term per request from the Oregon Mint Commission and Oregon Essential Oil Growers League. Knight also pointed out that Ryan Svaty of La Grande had agreed to serve on the committee. Their new terms began at the close of this meeting. Knight offered additional copies of the 2007 Directory Of Oregon Certified Mint Rootstock to the committee.
3. The Chair called for additions to the agenda, and none were received.
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.
5. Old Business
 - a) At the January 11, 2007 meeting, the committee recommended that the "Oregon Peppermint and Spearmint Rootstock Certification Standards" be revised to reinstate into the standards a "spot treatment" option when verticillium wilt is found. Knight reported that the standards had been revised addressing the protocol to follow for the "spot treatment" of verticillium wilt if found in a field of mint intended for certification. Knight offered copies of the revised 2007 "Oregon Peppermint and Spearmint Rootstock Certification Standards" to the committee.
6. New Business
 - a) The subject of branding mint for the purpose of improving marketing advantages was discussed. Russ Karow mentioned that the Identity Preserved Program is one option to consider. This program is used to identify products that have met specific requirements designed to preserve the genetic and/or physical identity of the product.

The research involving the proposed microwave extraction system was discussed. Dr. Ocamb thought more information was needed to determine if the microwave process would remove all concerns of verticillium being reintroduced when processed mint hay is put back

New business Continued:

on the field.

It was noted that the number of acres in the Oregon Certified Mint Rootstock program has gradually declined in recent years. Reasons mentioned for the decline were varied.

Depressed oil markets and mint growers producing rootstock for own use were pointed out.

7. Reports

a) Mint Rootstock Certification

Randy Knight reported that one greenhouse operation produced one lot of Nuclear generation rooted cuttings. This was the public variety Mitcham peppermint. No spearmint varieties were certified. For field-produced rootstock, no acreage was entered for certification in Program A, the Strict Land Requirements Program. One grower in Union county produced one lot of Mitcham peppermint from a five acre field for certification. This production was entered into Program B, the Field Class Program. The lot passed full certification requirements. Acreage in the certification program was down from 12 acres in 2006.

b) Seed Services Report

Dan Curry reported that OSU is continuing to develop a contract that will allow outsourcing the production, conditioning, storage, and marketing of foundation seed. Dan announced that the Oregon Seed Council Seed Services Advisory Committee would meet on January 17th at the Old Pringle School in SE Salem, OR. He reminded everyone of the Certification Board meeting on Tuesday, February 12, 2008 in Corvallis. He announced that Seed Certification is working to further the use of its database by allowing growers to sign-up-on-line, in addition to their local county office, for seedling applications. Dan noted that the OSU Seed Lab is sponsoring a Canadian Grading Workshop on January 30-31. The Seed Lab is developing a quality manual for the lab to improve internal processes. The Seed Lab may soon apply for membership into the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). Dan reported that the Seed Lab had a very productive season by achieving more productivity out of the analysts and provided a shorter turn-around-time for results.

c) OSU Crop & Soil Science Department Report

Dr. Russ Karow distributed a report to the committee identifying the highlights of activities over the past months in Crop and Soil Science (CSS) as they affect clientele groups affiliated with CSS. The highlights included updates on State and Federal Budgets, and a discussion of Signature Research Centers and Sun Grant research. He announced that work on the 2007-08 ODA-OSU oilseeds project had begun. Crops for this project that have been planted are camelina, canola and flax. Willamette Biomass Processors (WBP), a new oilseed processor in western Oregon, is contracting for camelina for 2008 production. ODA will soon announce a decision related to the continuation of the administrative rule that currently prohibits canola production in western Oregon, central Oregon and parts of eastern Oregon. Dr. Karow announced that Oregon would be hosting the 2009 annual meeting of the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA). Tentative dates for this meeting are June 26-July 1. Tours of Oregon's seed industries will be included as part of this meeting. He noted that Dr. Reed Barker retired from USDA-ARS effective June 30, 2007. Dr. Barker has agreed to continue his work on the "Implementation of a Gene-Specific Test for Perennial Ryegrass Purity" at least through Aug-Sept. of 2008. The position previously held by Dr. Fred Crowe at the Central Oregon Ag Research Center in Madras is in the process of being filled.

8. Scott Seus was nominated to serve as Vice-Chair for the next year, and Scott Gibson moves from Vice-Chair to Chair.

9. The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at approximately 8 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Randy Knight

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 (<http://www.oscs.orst.edu>) under the respective Mint or Advisory Committee headings.