

Seedlines - AsureQuality Seed news in brief April 2008

Bureau and Field 2007-08 Season

Bureau staff processed over 3300 applications this season, resulting in Field Staff carrying out over 3800 inspections. A summary of entries and area is included with this newsletter.

We welcomed two new field officers during the year and both were fully involved with inspections during the season.

How good has been the harvest?..... the Bureau printed over 1.1 million labels from 1st January to 31st March. Looks like we'll break the previous 2006 year of 2.4m labels.

AgC10 – Label and Seed Testing Forms

We are currently reviewing the layout and information on the AgC10 form. Please contact Evan Johnston with any suggestion you may have. Once completed, we will hold workshops for people using the forms and those giving information to people filling out the forms.

Database/Website

There is a review of the seed database and website. The following is a short summary of the areas we are looking to improve: customer access to paddock histories, statistics, test results, entries, automatic notification of results and ability to download application forms and enter data.

A key to being able to deliver information from the website will be the completeness of the Grower Application form and the Variety Registration form.

Seed Lab

The Seed Labs have been trying to keep up with the large volumes of samples arriving. The labs have completed over 7200 tests so far for this year. Staff have been working Saturdays to try and keep up with work loads. We have also had the services of analysts from Europe again. Ryegrass germinations have been excellent this season. The tables below summarise Ryegrass and White Clover germination results from 1st January 2008 to 31st March 2008.

Perennial Ryegrass

| Result | Number | Percentage |
|------------|--------|------------|
| 90 to 100% | 632 | 93.77% |
| 85 to 89% | 27 | 4.01% |
| 80 to 84% | 5 | 0.74% |
| 70 to 79% | 2 | 0.30% |
| 0 to 69% | 0 | 0.00% |

Grasslands Nui

| Result | Number | Percentage |
|------------|--------|------------|
| 90 to 100% | 334 | 95.43% |
| 85 to 89% | 14 | 4.0% |
| 80 to 84% | 1 | 0.29% |
| 70 to 79% | 1 | 0.29% |
| 0 to 69% | 0 | 0.00% |

Hybrid Ryegrass

| Result | Number | Percentage |
|------------|--------|------------|
| 90 to 100% | 88 | 88.0% |
| 85 to 89% | 11 | 11.0% |
| 80 to 84% | 1 | 1.0% |
| 70 to 79% | 0 | 0.00% |
| 0 to 69% | 0 | 0.00% |

Italian Ryegrass

| Result | Number | Percentage |
|------------|--------|------------|
| 90 to 100% | 273 | 93.49% |
| 85 to 89% | 15 | 5.14% |
| 80 to 84% | 3 | 1.03% |
| 70 to 79% | 0 | 0.00% |
| 0 to 69% | 0 | 0.00% |

White Clover

| Result | Number | Percentage |
|------------|--------|------------|
| 90 to 100% | 51 | 94.44% |
| 85 to 89% | 2 | 3.70% |
| 80 to 84% | 1 | 1.85% |
| 70 to 79% | 0 | 0.00% |
| 0 to 69% | 0 | 0.00% |

The International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) have published a revised 'List of Stabilized Plant Names' which will see some changes to a small number of varieties we produce in New Zealand. This will only effect seed certificates and labels.

Diagnostic Lab

The Diagnostic Lab at Lincoln has completed over 1300 tests since January this year. This is made up of health, market access and endophyte tests. We have also welcomed an additional laboratory technician to the team.

An Isolation Change

There has been a change to the isolation distance required between certified Diploid and Tetraploid Ryegrass crops. This is now set at 5 metres.

Closing Dates

Remember the closing dates BUT why wait!!!! If you have sown your crop, why not complete the enclosed application form and send it back to us!!!! ... and take a closer look at the application form. We have made a change to the back of it. There is now a planting plan to be used for growers planting multiple certified crops in one paddock or 1 certified crop in a part paddock.

New Prices

After several years of no fee increases (crop inspection fees have not changed since before 1990!!), rising costs, particularly wages and the rising fuel costs, make it necessary to increase fees for the 2008-09 season. We will be monitoring the costs of each component of seed certification in order that future charges can be more closely related to the true costs of providing each service. These costs will be discussed with the Seed Quality Management Authority (SQMA) in September 2008.

The increase in testing fees, also incorporate an increase in the levies which fund the operation of the SQMA. The SQMA operate the New Zealand Seed Certification Scheme and contract AsureQuality to manage the scheme. The SQMA also fund delegates to represent New Zealand at meetings of the OECD Seed Schemes, ISTA (seed testing) and AOSCA (USA certification scheme).

The new retail prices for Seed testing, Diagnostic testing, Crop Inspection and Cultivar listing fees have been included with this newsletter.