

Introduction of Wild Species Committee (WSC) and its objectives and deliverables

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Introduction and demonstration of the web application of wild seeds testing protocol database

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Abstract

The project on testing wild seeds was initiated through a collaborative partnership involving the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA), the Kew Millennium Seed Bank, the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA), and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST). The work has been supported by a Wild Species Working Group composed of experienced seed testing professionals who contribute their expertise and encourage participation from others interested in wild species seed testing.

At the ISTA Annual Meeting in 2024, ISTA formally established the Wild Seed Technical Committee (WSC). Following the creation of this committee, the Wild Seeds website was created, revamped, and further developed under the leadership of the newly established ISTA technical committee for wild species.

The website provides recommended seed testing protocols for wild (native) plant species that are not covered by the official rules of ISTA or AOSA. It supports seed analysts and researchers working with non commercial wild species by offering practical guidance and reference materials.

In addition to testing protocols, the website includes methodology chapters, a seed image gallery to support wild seed testing and identification, and a glossary of botanical and seed testing terms. Overall, the site emphasizes discovery, collaboration, and the expansion of knowledge in the often-underexplored field of wild species seed testing.