



# INTERNATIONAL SEED TESTING ASSOCIATION (ISTA)

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## Directive Terms of Reference Wild Species Working Group

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Date:	July	August	11.09.2016
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## **SCOPE**

This document describes the purpose and structure of the Wild Species Working Group, a collaboration between ISTA, AOSA, SCST and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Directive TCOM Responsibilities of ISTA Technical Committees

TCOM-SOP-04-How to become TCOM member

TCOM Application Form

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AOSA - Association of Official Seed Analysts

ECOM – Executive Committee

Kew - Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

SCST - Society of Commercial Seed Technologists

TCOM – Technical Committee

## **BACKGROUND**

There is increasing interest in the use of wild species for both amenity planting and habitat restoration. ISTA has recognised this by introducing the testing of seed mixtures in 2012 Rules. The Flower Seed Committee has extended its scope to the wild flower species and is interested in working to develop methodologies, beginning with the collection of existing methods used by seed analysis laboratories and seed banks. Flowers are a key component of the wild species group. The Forest Tree and Shrub Seed Committee is also active in the field of wild species. However the majority of wild species are not in the ISTA Rules, which are designed for species whose seeds are moving in international trade. While it may not be necessary to include wild species in the Rules nonetheless it would be an advantage to the emerging wild species seed sector to have guidelines for determining the seed viability, germination, purity and moisture content of these species. The three organisations collaborating within this working group have the knowledge, expertise and credibility to develop these guidelines for the sector. The guidelines will be a joint-ISTA-AOSA-SCST-Kew publication with contributors acknowledged as authors/editors/contributors as appropriate.

## **COMPOSITION**

The working group will comprise representatives from ISTA, AOSA, SCST and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The working group will have a maximum of 12 members with a minimum of two representatives from each organisation. ISTA representatives will be nominated by the ISTA Executive Committee. The ISTA President will be an ex-officio member of the working group and consistent with ISTA practice will not be included in the ISTA membership numbers for the group. The working group will report to the ISTA Executive with reports due for the February and June ISTA Executive Committee Meetings. Reports will also be made to AOSA, SCST and Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew) according to their requirements or in conjunction with the February and June reports to the ISTA Executive (to be discussed with AOSA, SCST and the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew)), and to the ISTA membership in June during the ISTA Congress/Annual Meeting. The Working Group Chair or Chairs will be elected by the working group members and approved by the three collaborating organisations.

The term of the working group will apply from when it is approved by the three collaborating organisations until 30 June 2019 at the end of which the ISTA Executive Committee in liaison with AOSA, SCST and the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew) will review the mandate of the working group to determine if it will continue and in what form.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM ISTA**

The working group will be eligible to apply for financial support from the money allocated within ISTA to support Technical Committee work “TCOM support”. Applications will be made on the same terms as for the ISTA Technical Committees. Financial support for travel will normally be restricted to ISTA members of the working group. Applications to the “TCOM support” fund for other activities, e.g., to support peer comparisons, must include an indication of any support, either financial or in-kind, being provided by AOSA and/or SCST and/or the Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew).

Applications for funding by ISTA, AOSA, SCST and Kew to external organisations to support the work of the working group are encouraged.

## **LIAISON WITH OTHER ISTA TECHNICAL COMMITTEES**

The working group will liaise with other ISTA and AOSA-SCST Technical Committees as appropriate. ISTA Committees expected to be liaised with include the Flower Seed, Forest Tree and Shrub Seed, Tetrazolium, Germination, Purity, Vigour and Moisture Committees. AOSA-SCST Technical Committees expected to be liaised with include the Purity, Germination, Tetrazolium, Conservation & Reclamation/Tree & Shrub, Flower Seed, Vigor, and Moisture Committees.

## **ACTIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP**

1. To develop a list of priority species to be included in the guidelines and the tests needed for each of these species.
2. To collect existing methods used by seed analysis laboratories and seed banks and, where applicable, use these to develop standardised guidelines for viability (using tetrazolium), germination (including recommendations for alleviating dormancy), purity and moisture content assessment of seed of wild species. Guidelines could be standardised by peer comparisons between the organisations involved.
3. To collate the guidelines in a wild species handbook with an introductory chapter followed by working sheets for each species, genus or group of species.
4. To provide recognition for the guidelines when used to assess seed quality by including “tested according to ISTA/AOSA/SCST/Kew guidelines” on test reports.

## **ANNEX**

none

## **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

ECOM

TCOM

Secretary General

TCord

## **REVISION HISTORY**

Version #	Changes