



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE

Iowa State University Seed Laboratory

TESTING SEEDS SINCE 1895

ISU Seed Lab Receives ISO 9001:2000 Certification!

Upcoming Events

at the Seed Science Center

AOSA Purity Short Course
April 26-29, 2004

AOSA Germination Short Course
May 3-6, 2004

Wholesalers' Workshop
May 26, 2004

ISO Auditor Training
June 2-4, 2004

Seed Corn Conditioning
June 21-25, 2004

Seed Corn Conditioning
June 26-30, 2004

Gravity Table Workshop
August 10, 2004

Gravity Table Workshop
August 12, 2004

Color Sorting Workshop
August 17, 2004

ISO Auditor Training
August 18-20, 2004

Seed Corn Quality Workshop
August 24, 2004

GMO Workshop
August 25, 2004

Soybean Quality Workshop
August 26, 2004

Soybean Conditioning Workshop
August 30 - September 2, 2004

Soybean Conditioning Workshop
September 13 - 16, 2004

For more information and registration, visit <http://www.seeds.iastate.edu> and click on **workshops**

Have you seen our new updated website? Check out www.seeds.iastate.edu/seedtest

For the first time an AOSA Laboratory, the ISU Seed Lab, has received ISO 9001:2000 certification. The ISU Lab received certification in December 2003 after an 18 month training process by the Center for Industrial Research and Service (CIRAS).

Becoming an ISO 9001:2000 certified laboratory has helped the Seed Lab in its everyday operations. "We are more customer focused, which is the underlying goal of the ISO 9001:2000 system," says Dan Curry, ISU Seed Lab Manager. The Lab has experienced improved internal processes. The third-party verification of the quality system of the lab will ensure that the Lab not only meets, but also exceeds the standard's expectations.

Orion Registrar, Inc, the company that audited the Seed Lab, will continue to periodically monitor the Seed Lab through assessment audits over the next three years. These audits will hold the lab and its staff responsible for upholding the standards associated with the ISO 9001:2000 certification, and also for updating the service practices as standards in the



Bret Wyant performs a tetrazolium (TZ) test on soybean samples in the ISU Seed Lab

industry change. The staff must inform Orion of changes in their quality practices, and must maintain and report any customer communications.

The Seed Lab was certified in Seed Quality Assurance Services in Germination, Vigor Testing, Purity, Genetic Traits and Seed Health on over 300 species of seeds.

Attend an AOSA Short Course

In collaboration with the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA), the Iowa State University Seed Science Center will be presenting the **AOSA Seed Analyst Short Courses 2004**.

These workshops are perfect for people interested in a solid introductory course in seed analysis, as well as individuals preparing to take the Registered Seed Technologist Examination or the AOSA Purity/Germination CSA Exam.

The purity session, April 26-29, will consist of lecture and laboratory periods on seed structure, seed identification, purity analysis, sampling and dividing, seed laws and enforcement, tolerances, and available literature. Participants will conduct purity analyses and perform seed identification separations on at least 10 different samples. More than 116 different crop,

vegetable, and weed species will be available for practice.

The germination session, May 3-6, will cover the processes involved in seed germination, rules for germination testing, seedling evaluation, seed dormancy, seed and seedling vigor, seed longevity and deterioration, tetrazolium testing, genetically enhanced organism testing, and other specialty tests.

Free exams are offered in both purity and germination, but early approval from AOSA is required.

Register online at www.ucs.iastate.edu. Registration fees are \$225 for each session, or at a discounted price of \$375 for both workshops. Space is limited, so register soon!

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ISU Seed Testing Laboratory

For over 100 years, Iowa State University has provided accurate, professional seed testing services to the seed industry. The Seed Lab annually performs tests on tens of thousands of seed samples, making it one of the world's largest seed testing programs. The Seed Laboratory tests corn, soybeans, and more than 300 other species of seeds.



OUR GOAL

To exceed the expectations of our customers by offering the highest quality product verification services

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What is ISO?

The International Organization for Standardization, ISO, is a quality assurance management system that contains procedures, policies and rules considered necessary to assure the quality of a company's services and products. ISO 9001:2000 has a worldwide reputation, and applies to all types of organizations, regardless of size. It can help both product and service-oriented organizations achieve standards of quality that are recognized and respected throughout the world.

This certification assures our customers that we have had our quality system reviewed and that we comply to the ISO system.

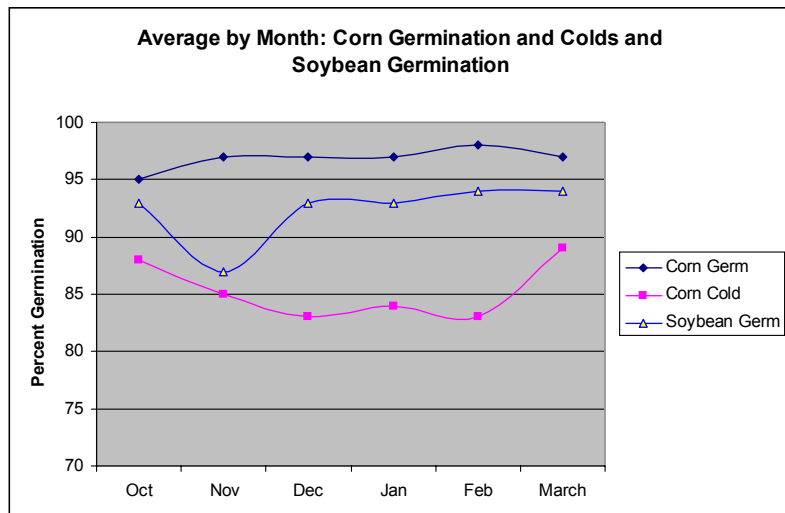
Corn and Soybean Germination Percentages

Except for some seed corn that was caught in an unusually hard freeze, the germination percentage for the corn has been above average. As the graph below notes, corn germs have averaged around 97% and the colds, were from 83% to 89%. Soybean germs have been fairly consistent, except for November, and have averaged from 93% to 94%. It has to be a good feeling that you are supplying to your customers a very high quality product that includes superior germination.

Our trait testing is ever expanding, as you might imagine. With the new Herculex, Yieldgard CB and Yieldgard CRW, each trait has new procedures that must be followed. We also have tested the new stacked traits on some of the new hybrids. Our goal is to be ready when you introduce a new trait to your customers.

Good luck with your plantings!

Dan Curry



Meet Our Staff



Martha Gray's experience with the ISU Seed Lab began during her freshmen year at Iowa State University in 1997. In those early days as a student, she planted seeds for germination. Martha worked in the lab throughout her college years and received her Bachelor's of Science in Meteorology. With an AOSA certification as a Seed Analyst in Germination, Martha is now a Seed Analyst II. Originally from a farming community in Vail, Iowa, she now resides in Ames with her husband Daniel and an array of family pets. Working at the lab has been a memorable experience for her, and she appreciates the diversity of the lab's staff in both life and professional experiences. Her area of specialization is germination and vigor of large seed. While not at work, she enjoys fishing, cooking, reading, and taking her dog out for walks. Martha can be reached at sege@iastate.edu