



# Seed Regulatory and Testing Division Spring 2024



## ITEMS OF INTEREST IN SEED

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Recent Activities.....1
- State Seed Regulators Quarterly Meeting.....1
- Identifying Wheat, Triticale, and Rye Seed.....1
- AOSCA Regional Meeting.....2
- Trueness-To-Variety Overview.....3
- Calendar of Events .....3

### RECENT ACTIVITIES

#### SRTD HOSTS WEBINAR TRAINING

On April 24, SRTD Laboratory Supervisor, Todd Erickson, presented to the members of the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA) and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST) on the proposed changes to the AOSA Rules for Testing Seed. The rule proposals will be voted on at the AOSA/SCST annual meeting in June. The AOSA Rules are referenced by most States in their seed laws. Mr. Erickson currently serves as the AOSA Rules Committee Chair.

#### SRTD CONGRATULATES THE NEW REGULATORY SUPERVISOR LAN CHI TRINH

Lan Chi Trinh has been a valuable member of SRTD regulatory team since 2016. Prior to joining SRTD, Chi worked as a Seed Analyst then Seed Laboratory Supervisor at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. During her time in Pennsylvania, she worked closely with the State Seed Control Official to enforce the State seed law. Her years of seed testing and regulatory experience have prepared her well for her new role.

### STATE SEED REGULATORS QUARTERLY MEETING

The Seed Regulatory and Testing Division (SRTD) conducts regional quarterly virtual meetings with State Seed Control Officials (SCO). The goal of the meetings is to promote better communication and working relationships with SCOs and discuss current industry issues. Topics from the most recent meetings included: the difference between batch numbers versus lot numbers, a discussion on the recent AMS notice regarding actions in enforcing varietal labeling, and the difference of FSA shipping dates and State official test dates.

In order to cover a wide variety of topics and answer any questions that arise, SRTD ensures that all relevant staff are available. These staff members include the SRTD Director, Laboratory Supervisor, OECD Seed Schemes Program Manager, and regulatory staff.

For more information regarding this article, contact Regulatory Supervisor Lan Chi Trinh at (704) 810-7272; [lan-chin.trinh@usda.gov](mailto:lan-chin.trinh@usda.gov).

### IDENTIFYING WHEAT, TRITICALE, AND RYE SEEDS

#### Background

**Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)** is used primarily for making flour.

**Triticale (*xTriticosecale*)** is a cross between wheat (*Triticum*) and rye (*Secale*). Triticale was created in a laboratory in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for the purpose of forage. It has the yield potential and grain quality of wheat, but the disease and environmental tolerance of rye.

**Rye (*Secale cereale* subsp. *cereale*)** is used for making flour, as a winter cover crop, and for distilled alcoholic beverages.

### Seed Characteristics

**Wheat** appears to be the widest of the 3 species across the middle, and the seed is shorter lengthwise in comparison to triticale and rye. This seed has a small amount of brush at the base of the seed.

**Triticale** is similar in length to rye and similar in width to wheat. The seed has deep, wavy, wrinkles and has more brush than wheat at the base of the seed.

**Rye** is the most slender of the three species and comes to a point at the embryo end. It has a slight wrinkled texture with a delicate, papery covering. Rye has no pubescence and is silver-gray to dark brown in color.

### Tips for Identification

**Wheat:** widest in the middle or slightly above, stunted seed.

**Triticale:** deep wrinkled surface, thick brush at base of the seed.

**Rye:** silver-gray color, no brush at the base of the seed.

Triticale and rye can look very similar when the triticale is devoid of its typical characteristics such as the deep, wavy wrinkles, and thick brush at the base. The seed will be either damaged, shriveled, diseased, or immature when this occurs. The wheat is usually the most distinguishable between the three seeds because the surface is smoother, and the seed is shorter in length than the triticale and rye.



Wheat seed (Anitra Walker AMS SRTD 2024)



Triticale seed (Anitra Walker AMS SRTD 2024)



Rye seed (Anitra Walker AMS SRTD 2024)

For more information regarding this article, contact Botanist Anitra Walker at (704) 810-7269; [Anitra.Walker@usda.gov](mailto:Anitra.Walker@usda.gov).

## ASSOCIATION OF OFFICIAL SEED CERTIFYING AGENCIES SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING

On March 26-27, 2024, North Carolina Crop Improvement Association hosted the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) Southern Regional Meeting in Cary, North Carolina. There were approximately 20 participants from six States. During the meeting, participants discussed proposals to update seed certification procedures and processes. These proposals will be presented for voting at the 2024 AOSCA Annual Meeting on June 16-19, 2024, in Destin, Florida. Regulatory Supervisor Lan Chi Trinh and Seed Marketing Specialists Rodney McNeace and Gabriel Williams represented SRTD at the meeting to provide guidance to participants and ensure that the proposals do not conflict with the Federal Seed Act.

For more information regarding this article, contact Regulatory Supervisor Lan Chi Trinh at (704) 810-7272; [lan-chin.trinh@usda.gov](mailto:lan-chin.trinh@usda.gov).

## TRUENESS-TO-VARIETY OVERVIEW

SRTD conducts Trueness-To-Variety (TTV) field tests to determine if seed lots are properly labeled for variety. In spring/summer of 2024, SRTD will conduct TTV field trials on peppers and squash at the Mountain Horticultural Crops Research Center in Mills River, North Carolina, as well as pumpkins at the Piedmont Research Station in Salisbury, North Carolina. The peppers are currently being grown in the SRTD greenhouse and will later be transplanted into the field for further testing and evaluation.

Additionally, SRTD will be planting samples of Kentucky 31 tall fescue. These will be grown in the greenhouse and then transplanted in the field during October/November 2024 for further evaluation in the spring of 2025.

SRTD would like to thank the States that participated in the TTV program. Once results have been compiled, participating States will be notified of any mislabeling.

For more information regarding this article, contact Seed Marketing Specialist Gabriel Williams at (704) 810-8878; [gabriel.williams@usda.gov](mailto:gabriel.williams@usda.gov)



Peppers growing in the SRTD greenhouse for TTV testing (Elizabeth Stewart AMS SRTD 2024)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Seed Schemes Annual Meeting  
*Nice, France; June 10-14, 2024*
- Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies Annual Meeting  
*Destin, FL; June 16-19, 2024*
- International Seed Testing Association Annual Meeting  
*Cambridge, UK, July 1-4, 2024*
- The Association of American Seed Control Official Annual Meeting  
*Salt Lake City, UT; July 14-20, 2024*
- Seed Regulatory and Testing Division Seed School  
*Gastonia, NC; August 5-7 and 12-14, 2024*
- American Seed Trade Association Forage, Turf and Conservation Seed Conference  
*Kansas City, MO; October 30, 2024*

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) identity (including gender expression civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.