



## **AOSCA Quality Assurance (QA) Program**

(including changes effective June 2016)

### **PURPOSE**

The AOSCA Quality Assurance (QA) program provides a uniform and unbiased quality control system and marketing tool for crop seeds merchandised as varieties, hybrids, brands, or blends.

### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide coordinated, professional, unbiased field inspections, laboratory testing and post control grow outs for quality control in seed production, conditioning and marketing.
2. To provide an unbiased record system for use in meeting state and federal seed law requirements, for use in assessing royalties or research fees; and to help solve potential problems with customers and seed suppliers.
3. To provide a retail or wholesale marketing image of sound quality control assurance for selling seed products not using the certification program.
4. To provide seed buyers with assurance that a designated seed product has met genetic purity standards related to a known description across lots and years of production, to facilitate product identification, and to provide a liaison between genetic suppliers and producers.

### **Quality Assurance (QA) Standards**

QA Standards will be equal to or exceed the AOSCA Standards for certification for varietal purity of the Certified class of seed, with the following exceptions:

1. Varietal eligibility requirements
2. Seedstock eligibility

Note – A QA/IP Ad Hoc working group was formed to research this matter and made the following recommendation: In order to provide clarity and uniformity in program administration, all certification agencies shall implement standards that mirror their seed certification standards for each crop kind that is offered a QA option with the following exceptions - varietal eligibility requirements and seedstock eligibility.

Seed Certifying Agencies should take note of the intent of this action until further action may be considered by the AOSCA Certification Requirements and Standards Council.