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PROCEDURES FOR RELEASE AND RECOMMENDATION OF FIELD CROP VARIETIES IN MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

The Crop Variety Review Committee is established by the Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES) for the purpose of assuring quality of agronomic plant germplasm and related plant materials released by MAES. The operation of the committee is generally governed by procedures in the document **“Policy and Procedures Statement on Distribution and Release of Plant Germplasm and Related Plant Materials of the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station”** (hereinafter referred to as **“P/P”**). Additional procedures regarding the composition and operation of the committee are listed below.

- A. Members of the Crop Variety Review Committee are appointed by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station Director, from the following categories:

Voting Members:

- Head, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics (Chairman)
- Two plant breeders
- One extension agronomist
- Head, Department of Plant Pathology
- One plant pathologist
- Executive Director, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association
- MCI Foundation Seed Coordinator

Ex Officio Members:

- Director, Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station, or a designated representative

Responsibilities of the Crop Variety Review Committee

1. Approving release of new varieties, hybrids, inbreds, clones and special genetic stocks.
2. Approving increases and procedures for increasing and releasing planting stocks of new varieties, hybrids, inbreds and clones developed by the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station.
3. Determining the names for new varieties, hybrids, inbreds, or clones developed by the Experiment Station.
4. Annually revising the list of recommended varieties.
5. Recommend policy relating to release and recommendation procedures.

Responsibilities of the Plant Breeding Project leaders

1. Making proposals for increase, release and naming of new varieties; including increase procedures, projected release date and amount of planting stock to be released.
2. Providing a list of possible names (minimum of 3 as a part of the release proposal) for committee consideration.
3. Making proposals for changes in the list of recommended varieties.
4. Preparing data summaries in support of above items.

PROCEDURES TO ACCOMPLISH OBJECTIVES

I. Seed increases and allotments of new selections and introduced varieties.

A. Seed increases of new selections developed in Minnesota programs:

Actions by the committee on increases of promising selections are needed when the breeding project desires participation of Foundation Seedstocks, MCIA. Participation by Foundation Seedstocks is normally required when a variety is being increased with intent to release. Foundation Seedstocks may also participate in increases for further testing if the breeding project does not have resources for the increase (for example, increases of forage varieties with contract growers in Minnesota or elsewhere).

When a request is made for an increase, the amount of the initial increase, purity and source of seed (progeny rows, test plots, etc.) should be specified. A date for release and an amount of planting stock for distribution should be recommended (assuming the variety continues to perform well in additional tests). Project leaders should consult with the MCIA Coordinator of Foundation Seedstocks, in preparing these proposals. If more than one year is required for increase, performance data are to be reviewed annually by the committee. Permission to increase Minnesota developed selections does not imply consent to release.

B. Seed sharing with other states: Allotments of seed of new Minnesota varieties to other states and decisions on seed increase of varieties developed outside of Minnesota will be made by a sub-committee consisting of the Head, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, Project Leader of the crop, Extension Agronomist and Minnesota Crop Improvement Association representative.

II. Releasing and naming of new varieties

Decisions on releasing and naming of new varieties are to be made, if possible, at a regularly scheduled November meeting. Meetings can be arranged at other times if complete data are not yet available.

Approval for release and naming of a Minnesota developed variety automatically implies recommendation, unless the committee specifies otherwise.

The committee should make recommendations on joint releases for varieties developed elsewhere. Signing of the cooperative release statement by the Director of

the Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station automatically implies recommendation.

III. Variety recommendations

A. Decisions requiring action by the committee:

1. Placing varieties on the 'recommended' list.
2. Placing varieties on the 'other variety' list. Varieties should be dropped from the 'other variety' category in Varietal Trials of Farm Crops when there is no longer interest in them. This decision is the responsibility of the project leader.

B. Time for preparing materials for committee action: Actions to place varieties on the 'recommended' or 'other varieties' list should be taken at a regularly scheduled November meeting of the Crop Variety Review Committee. Data from the project leaders should be supplied to the committee secretary at least seven days prior to the next committee meeting. Decisions reached in the November meeting will be included in Varietal Trials of Farm Crops for the following year. Additional meetings may be scheduled, as necessary, to consider items of urgency between November meetings.

IV. Preparation and presentation of project recommendations:

Prior to making proposals on release or recommendation of varieties, project leaders should consult with appropriate colleagues, including extension and research.

Project data should be submitted each year for all crops appearing in Varietal Trials of Farm Crops each year, whether or not proposals or changes are recommended.

Requests for action should be accompanied by:

- A. Descriptions of varieties on which action is requested, if not included in the previous edition of Varietal Trials of Farm Crops.
- B. Statement of availability of breeder and/or foundation seed of varieties suggested as additions to the list of recommended varieties. The project leader should consult with MCIA Foundation Seed Coordinator to determine availability of Seedstocks.
- C. Data to support recommendations. Data from various locations and years should be combined, although data for individual locations and years can be presented when necessary to support specific points. All appropriate data, including that obtained in regional trials, should be included in these summaries. Appropriate variety comparisons should be used in describing the characteristics of new releases. Experimental numbers used for unnamed experimental lines should be consistent in all tables.

Sufficient copies (secretary will designate the exact number) of project proposals and supporting data must be submitted to the committee secretary so they can be distributed to interested staff members in Agronomy and Plant

Genetics, Plant Pathology and Branch Station Agronomists and Superintendents. Personnel receiving this information may respond directly to the committee or to the project leader.

Project leaders in Agronomy and Plant Genetics and Plant Pathology and the extension agronomist most directly concerned with the crop under consideration should meet with the committee while their crop is being considered. Other interested University or USDA personnel are welcome to attend. Invitations to others should be extended only with the approval of the chairman of the Crop Variety Review Committee.

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V. Voting Procedures

Each committee member has one vote. For the crop under consideration the project personnel will collectively have one vote. For items on which action is requested between committee meetings, the subcommittee listed in I-B (above) shall decide whether these items should be submitted to the whole committee before the next regular meeting. This may be done by mail, telephone or by special meeting.

VI. Distribution of the actions taken by the Crop Variety Review Committee.

Actions (in the form of minutes) taken by the committee will be distributed following committee meetings to keep cooperators and interested research and extension personnel informed about significant actions.