



Oregon Seed Association

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Winter 2012 OSA Letter

Greetings OSA Members,

Well, if you're reading this we have survived the end of the world according to the Mayans. It has truly been an interesting year—weather, elections and the sad situations of this past month's senseless shootings—really has made 2012 a hard year to focus on just business. But for the first time in a long time, it sounds like inventory numbers are at a level where we can start thinking about what we have in the ground and not in the warehouse. This is a good thing for everyone as long as we keep our heads in the game. The year 2013 should be good for our industry, but it will require focus to ensure we don't repeat some of the mistakes we've made in the past.

So, as we move forward in 2013, please make sure you are at our winter conference on January 15th. Our new format may be a challenge, but we think it will help us stay engaged on the topics that affect every one of us in one way or another. Topics we will cover include **stewardship of products** – we now have a list of terms defined. This will help us speak the same language so we can make positive steps in the best interest of our association. We will also discuss **canola production** and how it will affect us as an industry – we need to know, are we for it, against it, or do we just remain neutral? For the first time I can recall, our associates group will be giving a **workshop on international business** and how it pertains to us. We will get to meet the turfgrass director from OSU, and ASTA will give us an update on the national issues that we currently face and will be facing in the near future. Lastly, we will end the afternoon with our past presidents reception, so that we can network and talk with other members of the OSA.

Also, please do not miss the opportunity to be entered in our drawing. Book your room at Salishan Resort for our OSA summer convention, to be held June 26th thru 28th. You could win a free night stay or a round of golf for two, but you must make a room reservation for the conference by January 4th in order to be eligible to win. It should prove to be both educational and refreshing with a new location and new time; I look forward to an outstanding time to get together.

In closing, may I say, let's all continue to look ahead and set our own destiny. We cannot continue to do things the way we have always done them, and expect things to be just fine. We need to stay focused and that means that we need every one of you to give us insight and direction. So if you know someone who should be a member and is not, encourage them to step up and get involved. If someone has dropped out because they think OSA has no benefit, let them know we do have a voice and we do have meaning, but it takes all of our industry to make it work. Together, we will make 2013 one of the best years in a long time, but we cannot do it without each and every one of you!

Duane Klundt
OSA President

ODA Opens Public Comment Period re: Canola Propagation in the Willamette Valley

After a series of follow up meetings and more feedback from industry, ODA has re-released a proposed rule that would allow up to 2,500 acres of canola growth in areas of the Willamette Valley that have previously been protected. A public hearing will be held and ODA will take comments on the proposed rule on January 23, 2013, at the Oregon State Fair Grounds, Cascade Hall. The address is: 2330 17th St. NE, Salem Oregon. The public comment period will remain open until January 25.

OSA is in the process of developing an association position on the

proposed canola rule. Please plan on attending the January 15, Mid-Winter meeting and join the debate. The Mid-Winter meeting will be held in Salem at the Salem Conference Center. The OSA webpage is currently under construction, but you can still find Mid-Winter meeting information by visiting: <http://www.oregonseed.org/>.

The following link is to an Oregonian Story on the issue that was published this past week.

http://www.oregonlive.com/business/index.ssf/2012/12/oregon_department_of_agricultu_1.html

The proposed rule is also [attached](#) for your review.

Canola research funds sought

By Mitch Lies, Capital Press

SALEM --The Oregon Legislature's Emergency Board has deferred to the 2013 Legislature a request that lawmakers put \$446,040 into canola research.

The request, from the Oregon Department of Agriculture, is for lawmakers to fund the research through Oregon State University.

If funded, OSU likely will hire a post-doctoral professional to conduct the research, according to Russ Karow, head of the College of Agricultural Sciences crop and soil science department.

Through the research, department officials hope to answer, among other questions, if cross pollination among canola and other brassica crops is a concern, if volunteer plants can be managed in fields previously planted to canola, and if off-field movement of canola is a problem.

The funding would be distributed over three years.

"Three years of research is required to produce outcomes that can further address many of the unanswered questions regarding co-existence of brassica crops in the (Willamette) Valley," ODA Director Katy Coba wrote in ODA's request to the E-board.

Canola is part of the brassica family, a family of broadleaf crops that includes cauliflower and broccoli. It is grown for edible oil, industrial grade oil, including biodiesel, and seed.

ODA currently bans canola production in the vast majority of the Willamette Valley.

Some grass seed growers have said they wish to grow canola in the valley as a rotation crop to break weed and disease cycles.

"Growers have found that canola is a good alternative as it produces high yields with minimal inputs and can be grown with the same equipment used in grass seed production," Coba wrote to lawmakers. The crop is also easily marketable, she wrote, and, according to Karow, can be grown economically.

"The unknown ... is how much value do you attribute to the ability to control grassy weeds," Karow said. "In some situations, that could be a huge value.

"Also," Karow said, "the crop is competitive with lower priced grass seed crops."

OSU conducted two years of research on canola production in the valley in 2008-09, but generated only preliminary data.

"The general conclusion was if you grew a canola field and followed it with a grass or grain crop, where you were using standard herbicide practices, the odds of having a huge canola volunteer problem would seem to be limited," Karow said. "We didn't see significant build-up in seed banks.

"The counterpoint to that is everyone was watching," Karow said. "These

fields were getting special treatment."

The state currently bans canola production in the vast majority of the Willamette Valley to protect a lucrative specialty seed industry that depends on seed purity to maintain contracts.

Most specialty seed growers support a ban on canola production in the valley.

Specialty Seed List Canceled SLN - Loveland Simazine on brassica seed crops OR-050017

See [attached](#) letter.

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Pesticide Registration and
Endangered Species Specialist
Pesticides Division
Web Page: <http://oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/>

UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

Mid-Winter Meeting - January 15, 2013
Summer Convention - June 26-29, 2013

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