

Alfalfa Crop Germplasm Committee
Larry Teuber, Chair

1. Items from the last meeting
 - a. The past chair remains as the third officer on the executive committee.
 - b. Seed increases for standard check cultivars needed to be discussed.
 - c. Increased funding for germplasm evaluation was needed.

2. Curator's report (appended)

Stephanie Green noted that Allen Stoner couldn't come but that there was nothing new to report from the germplasm folks in Beltsville. She mentioned that if you want to submit a plant exploration proposal, contact Karen Williams.

Stephanie provided a brief history of the recent budget situation at NPGS. Basically, since no new money had come to NPGS for over a decade, the American Seed Trade Association began a lobbying campaign to increase the operating budget of NPGS. The campaign was successful and the federal FY2001 and FY2002 agriculture appropriations increased the NPGS budget to \$39.8 million (according to L. Teuber). The Western Regional Plant Introduction Station (WRPIS) received some of the money, and Stephanie's CRIS increased by \$95K to the targeted \$250K. She indicated that there may be another, smaller increase in the works, although long term, no significant increases are expected.

The new money has been spent on upgrading infrastructure at Prosser and on hiring a full time technician for the project. Among the improvements were the construction of a new pole barn to dry material, the upgrading of cages with a new design (25% have been upgraded so far), a lab for seed rescue work. The new technician will work with problem material—wild species, accessions with limited viability, etc. along with the basic increase and management of materials.

Stephanie has developed a new forage legume web site: www.forage.prosser.wsu.edu that includes links to GRIN and to other germplasm repositories around the world. Stephanie asked for members to give her suggestions on what to include in GRIN, how to better use the collections, etc. Larry indicated that if you have problems with GRIN, tell them and they will fix it.

New acquisitions from central Asia were added to the collection. Pod shape, chromosome counts, and flower color were noted on the sativa complex accessions. Stephanie also got accessions from collections that ICARDA recently made areas of central Asia that are difficult to access (politically, at any rate).

The collection has seen a great increase in requests for *M. truncatula* (not surprisingly, given its model legume status). Stephanie wants to see if INRA would be willing to send their collection—as a back-up for them and to increase use of the material in the US—and has considered curating some of the mutants that Doug Cook's project is producing. The alfalfa standard checks are now distributed from Prosser, but increases are needed for some (some have no seed available). Stephanie noted that the WRPIS can't do large seed increases, so

for the standard checks, they just distribute the seed.

Stephanie will start doing more evaluations of the collection, including ploidy, taxonomy, and other straightforward descriptors that haven't been evaluated on some of the germplasm.

Status of *Medicago* germplasm (Gary Bauchan)

The paper that Gary and Stephanie wrote appeared in the *Plant Genetics Newsletter*. The CGC surveyed the community on the prioritization of germplasm work, and Gary distributed the results. Gary is working on a history of the Alfalfa Crop Germplasm Committee.

5. Maintenance of standard checks

As mentioned, the standard checks are now distributed from Prosser, instead of Beltsville, but increases of some are desperately needed. A protocol needs to be developed to ensure that checks are maintained in sufficient quantity and quality. Gary Bauchan suggested we should go back to the original company to try to get seed, but Don Viands indicated that many are not private cultivars. Further, all the checks need to be backed up at the NSSL for increase purposes through the ages—with the understanding that we'd be getting the seed out over time. Whether NSSL would do this—i.e., store a couple pounds of each check that we could repeatedly access—was not particularly clear.

The committee agreed that someone needed to be assigned the responsibility to take care of the collections and to make sure they don't run out before regeneration and that a designated person, or company, be identified to increase each entry when it needed to be done and to check to make sure the new increases fit the check standard. In the process of identifying these people, all old checks no longer used need to be removed.

Action: Larry Teuber will choose a couple folks and work up a plan.

6. Germplasm Evaluation Funding

The committee felt that we needed to go on record asking for money to support evaluation, by writing a letter to Peter Bretting and Evert Byington. In the past, horticultural crops had set aside money at national program level to evaluate germplasm, but agronomic crops just put dollars into existing CRIS projects. Gary Bauchan suggested adding a list of evaluation needs, although not everyone in the group agreed that this was necessary. Some discussion ensued about enhancement efforts, but nothing was definitively decided.

Action: Larry, Stephanie, and Charlie will write a letter requesting evaluation monies.

7. Standing committees

Larry Teuber started to get nostalgic, and mentioned that in the good old days, everyone seemed to have ownership of the research and willingly collaborated on evaluations, etc., but that lately, we seem to have lost direction. As a means of regaining direction, Larry suggested that several standing subcommittees be formed, so that the subcommittee chairs, together with the chair, past chair, and secretary, would help the committee move forward.

The following subcommittees were formed:

1. Standard checks: Larry Teuber (chair), George Vandemark, Mark Smith
2. Exploration: Stephanie Greene, JoAnn Lamb
3. GRIN: Stephanie Greene, Gary Bauchan
4. Evaluation: Dick Berberet, Ian Ray, Lanny Rhodes
5. Enhancement: Charlie Brummer (chair), Don Viands, John Caddel (a subcommittee on enhancement had been set up at the 2000 CGC meeting, with Larry Teuber, George Vandemark, and Dave Miller also involved. They will be retained as the new committee begins work.)

Other people who wish to be involved with one or more of these committees (and we certainly welcome any involvement!) can contact one of the officers or the committee members directly. We especially would like to have industry participation on each committee.

The enhancement and evaluation groups could tie in with Robert Webster, Beltsville, who is doing GIS stuff that might be useful in putting materials together.

8. Duties of officers

The group suggested that the incoming chair, rather than the current chair, go to the CGC chair meeting in Beltsville. This schedule of CGC chair meetings typically comes at the end of the alfalfa chair's tenure.

9. Nominations for incoming secretary

Don Viands was nominated by Brummer/seconded by Berberet and elected unanimously.

10. Brummer took over from Teuber as chair, and immediately adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Curator's report appended to the minutes.

Attendance:

Larry Teuber, Chair	Univ. California, Davis	lrteuber@ucdavis.edu
Charile Brummer, Sec.	Iowa State Univ.	brummer@iastate.edu
Gary Bauchan	USDA-ARS, Beltsville, MD	bauchang@ba.ars.usda.gov
Stever Wagner	Dairyland Seed	swagner@dairylandseed.com
Mike Velde	Dairyland Seed	mvelde@dairylandseed.com
John Caddel	Oklahoma State Univ.	jlc@mail.pss.okstate.edu
JoAnn Lamb	USDA-ARS, St. Paul, MN	lambx002@umn.edu
Don Viands	Cornell Univ.	drv3@cornell.edu

Lanny Rhodes	Ohio State Univ.	rhodes.2@osu.edu
Dave Miller	Pioneer HiBredIntl.	david.j.miller@pioneer.com
Mark McCaslin	Forage Genetics Intl.	mccaslin@foragegenetics.com
Stephanie Greene	USDA-ARS, Prosser, WA	greenes@wsu.edu
Richard Berberet	Oklahoma State Univ.	pestalf@okstate.edu
Joe Bouton	University of Georgia	jbouton@uga.edu
Ian Ray	New Mexico State Univ.	iaray@nmsu.edu
George Vandemark	USAD-ARS, Prosser, WA	gvandemark@pars.ars.usda.gov
Jessica Tofte	Forage Genetics Intl.	jtofte@foragegenetics.com