
IR-4/USDA Crop Grouping Symposium

Subtitle: Crop Group Expansion to include orphan minor crops and international harmonization
Place: Hilton Crystal City at National Airport
Arlington, Virginia
Date: October 7 and 8, 2002, in conjunction with the 39th IR-4 Annual Meeting October 9-10, 2002

IR-4/USDA is sponsoring a Crop Grouping Symposium to propose the expansion of the established EPA crop groups (40 CFR 180.41). The concept is to include many orphan minor crops (both domestic and imported) in the established groups and subgroups and to propose new crop groups, e.g., oilseed, tropicals, etc. and subgroups, e.g., small grains, tropical edible peel, etc. Also the international harmonization of these and other new crop groups will be an important aspect of the process.

The timing is right to utilize the crop background knowledge of our IR-4 personnel and our cooperators in Canada, Mexico, companies, etc. for the expansion of regulatory crop groups and subgroups, including the Codex Classification.

We plan to ask participants to provide lists of orphan crops to include scientific and common names, portion consumed and suggested crop groups/subgroups placement.

Historical Perspective on Crop Grouping and Current Status

Previous to regulatory crop groupings, tolerances were established on individual commodities, which made registrations of pest control agents on minor crops unlikely. In

1971, the first edition of the *Food and Feed Crops of the United States* (Magness, J.R., G.M. Markle, and C.C. Compton, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin 828 and IR/USDA Bulletin No. 1) was published. This reference was the first attempt to classify all commercial food and feed crops grown in the United States based on a crop grouping scheme which depended on similar botanical characteristics and cultural practices. The "Duggan Classification" utilized the first edition of the *Food and Feed Crops of the United States* as its primary reference. The Duggan Classification report completed by Reo Duggan and M. Bonner Duggan was also utilized by both Codex to establish the original Codex Classification of Foods and Animal Feeds (CAC/PR 1-1978), and by the USA to develop the EPA Crop Grouping Regulation in 1983. The 1983 crop group regulation expanded the number of crop groups to 19 specific groups, and used the concept of representative commodities for each crop group that would typically have the highest residues or were the most economically important commodities in the crop group. In 1995 the EPA Crop Grouping Regulation (60 Federal Register, no. 95, 5/17/95, and 40 CFR 180.41), added more commodities and introduced the concept of Crop Subgroups, which are smaller, more closely related groups of commodities within a crop group with similar growth characteristics and residue potential. The U.S. Crop Grouping has nineteen Crop Groups and 18 Crop Subgroups.

Canada has adopted the U.S. Crop Grouping system and included an additional Crop Group on oilseeds, which is currently under review by the U.S., and both systems are harmonized for tolerance purposes. Mexico has proposed to adopt the U.S. Crop Grouping system. We are working to harmonize international crop groups, commodity terminology, and scientific names throughout the world.

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