

Legal Notice
Public Hearings
and
State Plant Board Special Called Board Meeting

The Arkansas State Plant Board will meet at **10:00 a.m., Monday, April 24, 2006** at the State Plant Board offices, #1 Natural Resources, Drive, Little Rock, AR.

1. **Public Hearing** to consider Rules and Regulations for the Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program. This hearing will be for the purpose of discussing the proposed Rules and Regulations for the Arkansas Boll Weevil Eradication Program. These rules will combine the current two sets of regulations into a single statewide set of regulations. The regulations also prescribe an alternate method of collecting production acreage information and development of assessment invoicing and fee collection. The method of establishing assessment fee levels for the North East Delta Zone is determined and the fee level for 2006 and 2007 will be set.

Public comments may be mailed to: Boll Weevil Comments, P.O. Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203; e-mailed to: bwcomments@aspb.ar.gov; called in to Terry Walker, Mark Stoll or Dana Baldrige at 501-225-1598; or faxed to 501-225-3590. Submitted comments will be accepted until the close of business on Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

Comments will be accepted in writing or by personal statement at the public hearing.

2. **Public Hearing** to consider Regulations on Plant Diseases and Pests. This hearing will be for the purpose of discussing proposed changes to the Regulations on Plant Diseases and Pests. The proposed changes will place two plants, Water Hyacinth and Japanese Blood Grass in a classification that will prevent their sale and use in Arkansas. Additionally, a late fee equal to 50% of the license fee will be established and applied to any license renewal that is not submitted within the required renewal time frame.

Public comments may be mailed to: Nursery Regs. Comments, P.O. Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203; e-mailed to: nursery@aspb.ar.gov; called in to Terry Walker or Paul Shell at 501-225-1598; or faxed to 501-225-3590. Submitted comments will be accepted until the close of business on Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

Comments will be accepted in writing or by personal statement at the public hearing.

3. **Public Hearing** to consider the following changes in the seed regulations:

The Plant Board recently directed the Seed Division to formulate a proposed regulation to amend the seed regulations in Circular 15: Official Standards for Seed Certification in Arkansas (Under Act 73, sections 2-18-101 - 2-18-108 A.S.A. 1947). These proposed changes are being made to comply with recommendations by AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) after an audit of our standards was conducted last winter:

AOSCA maintains genetic standards for certification of varieties of vegetatively propagated turfgrasses. The proposed regulation will add standards to the regulations in Circular 15: Standards for Seed Certification in Arkansas that comply with the standards maintained by AOSCA. The standards require isolation distances, land requirements and three inspections during the growing season to determine varietal purity. After standards are met, the turfgrass can be sold as a class of certified turfgrass sod with a Certified Turfgrass Certificate. Many new turfgrass varieties are being patented and license agreements require them to be sold only as a class of Certified Turfgrass.

If you have questions or comments, you are invited to attend the hearing. If you are unable to attend, but would like your written statements entered as a matter of public record, please send your statements to the attention of Mary Smith at the Plant Board Seed Division, PO Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203. If you would rather call, I can be reached at (501) 225-1598.

4. **Public Hearing** to consider the following changes in the seed regulations:

The Plant Board recently directed the Seed Division to formulate a proposed regulation to amend the seed regulations in Circular 10: Regulations on the Sale of Planting Seed in Arkansas (Under Authority of Sections 2-16-207 - 2-16-209, A.S.A. 1947) These proposed changes are being made as a result of recommendations from the AR Seed Growers Assoc. and the AR Seed Dealer's Assoc.

Currently seedsmen selling seed within or into Arkansas may label their seed with a variety name or with the statement "variety not stated". The proposed amendments would require the variety to be stated on the seed label for Soybeans, Rice, Wheat & Cotton, with an exception for wheat sold for use as a cover crop. The proposal would also add language similar to federal regulations outlining the parameters for variety names and their use. A definition of the term "brand" is also proposed along with guidelines for properly labeling a brand on the seed label, so as not to be confused with the variety name.

If you have questions or comments, you are invited to attend the hearing. If you are unable to attend, but would like your written statements entered as a matter of public record, please send your statements to the attention of Mary Smith at the Plant Board Seed Division, PO Box 1069, Little Rock, AR 72203. If you would rather call, I can be reached at (501) 225-1598.

5. **Other Business.**

Board meetings are open to the public. Oral comments may be made at the public hearing. For further information concerning the meeting, contact Darryl Little, Director, at 501-225-1598.

Darryl Little, Director