

SOSGA PINNING PROCEDURES

Purpose – Pinning seed field locations is an essential element of the Southern Oregon Seed Growers Association (SOSGA) Seed Quality Management Program. To facilitate communication and protect the seed industry in the Southern Oregon, isolation mapping procedures have been agreed upon by SOSGA. Changes to these rules are subject to board approval and a vote by the association voting members (member). The Pinning Rules and Isolation Distances have been established to maximize quality seed production of vegetable and other specialty seed in the designated area by limiting potential cross pollination.

Production Area – The seed production and isolation control area are Jackson and Josephine counties of Southern Oregon. The seed production area may be modified by Board approval and a majority vote of the members.

Successful Pinning – The success of the field isolation program depends upon the cooperation and communication among all seed growers and companies operating here. Although the program operates largely on a first-pinned, first-priority basis, this still obligates the company with priority to negotiate with other companies wherever and whenever possible to place crops in the best interests of the growers and the seed growers and companies operating in Southern Oregon.

Members are expected to strongly encourage contracting seed companies and other seed growers to participate as members of SOSGA.

Isolation Distance – Seed Field Isolation Distances are subject to review by the voting numbers (members) at two annual meetings of SOSGA. Members may modify the isolation distances by a majority vote. See the Seed Field Isolation Distances document.

Pinning Procedure –

1. Mapping is separated into eight separate crop group maps: beet, brassica fall type, brassica spring type, corn, onion (includes bunching onion, leek and onion), radish, spinach, and winter squash.
2. Pinning is the process of seed field (site) reservation for a pollination year. A pin is the reservation of a site for a pollination year (year of production). Pinned is the past tense of reserving a seed field for a crop.
3. The map cannot be pinned on a speculative basis in order to reserve isolation.
4. Seed fields are initially reserved by precedence for up to two sites per member, then by lottery drawing (lottery). Each voting member is allowed two field precedence sites for each crop. Pinning priority is given to member precedence site that are either their home residence site or their only site. Other precedence nonresidential or multiple sites are called secondary precedence sites. For example, a member's home site will have priority over another member's secondary site. In the event that a precedent field conflict for a crop cannot be amicably resolved, then precedence priority will be resolved between the related parties by annual lottery. For example, two members with home or only sites encroach upon the minimum isolation distance for that crop group, this case will be resolved by annual lottery.

**SOSGA
PINNING PROCEDURES**

5. After precedence sites are pinned, members may reserve additional sites by lottery.
6. After the pinning lottery at the Pinning Meeting, pins for successfully reserved sites will remain on the pinning map. Pins for unsuccessful reservation requests will be removed.
7. Only voting members are allowed to pin.
8. Each member is allotted one free pinning crop field as part of their annual membership dues. Additional fields cost \$50.00 each for members with annual seed sales over \$1 million.
9. There is no limit to the number of pins a member may placed through the pinning procedures.

Electronic Mapping –

1. SOSGA uses a free geo-mapping tool to place member pins. Using a free system coupled with an affordable electronic form system will enables SOSGA to be a grower run association.
2. Members complete pin reservation requests by crop and type, and year online by the Online Pin Reservation Deadline.
3. Pins are electronically mapped base on the physical address.
4. If you find any pins out of place, the map administrator can just drag and drop them to the correct location either prior to the pinning meeting.
5. Only members will be allowed to view the online pinning map. Security of this system depends on members not sharing passwords, links and maps with non-members. Passwords will be changed from time to time.

Dates –

Online Pin Reservation Request Deadline	Pinning Meeting, Lottery Reservation	Field Release for Planting
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Annuals

February 15th	February 21st	March 1st
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Biennials

June 15th	June 21st	July 1st
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Cancellation – Upon cancellation of an intended production prior to planting, the pin must be removed within five days. Upon abandonment of an established production, the pin must be marked failed in the remarks area. There is an allowance for pin changes up to five days of first pinning, afterwards you will be charged for the pin. Incorrect pinning, failure to mark and/or pull pins, may result in a penalty under the SOSGA of a minimum of a \$50.00 fine. Payment is required to remain a member in good standing.

SOSGA PINNING PROCEDURES

Pinning Rights –

1. The contracted grower or seed company who is an active member of SOSGA may pin. An active member of SOSGA may appoint a representative to pin on the member's behalf.
2. All pinning parties agree to abide by the pinning and isolation distances of SOSGA.
3. New pinning parties need to contact an officer of the SOSGA for membership approval, a requirement for pinning privileges. The association may appoint a representative to meet with a new party with the appropriate isolation map(s) to clarify pinning practices.

Membership and Pinning Fees –

1. The member is subject to fees as established by SOSGA. Fees include the SOSGA annual voting membership dues of \$50.00 per year, or nonvoting membership dues of \$150.00 for Associate members or Farmer Gardener membership fee ordinarily of \$15.00 per year. Farmer Gardener dues for 2014 only will be \$0.00 to encourage new members.
2. One field with unlimited crop pins is included with the annual Active membership dues. The pinning fees are \$50 per each field after the first field.
3. Pinning fees are charged at the pinning reservation request.
4. Pinning fees, except the first field, are refunded if all pins cannot be isolated and a field not successful. Pinning fees are charged even if the pinning member does not plant the crop.
5. A Farmer Gardener membership fee without a pinning fees may apply for a Farmer Gardener member when producing OP seed for non-commercial use in a single location. A Farmer Gardener membership is intended for the home gardener or farm seed saver. This membership is not eligible for pinning priority and is required to follow SOSGA rules. Such a member must be accompanied by a designated appointee when pinning the map. Crop pins must be used to identify different species and "Farmer Gardener" must be designated on each online entry submitted in.

Exception Agreements –

1. There are two exception agreements, Isolation Distance Encroachment and One Year Isolation Deferral. The Encroachment exception applies to an established crop isolation where one member agrees to allow another member to produce a like crop under less than SOSGA isolation distances. The Deferral exception applies to an established crop isolation where one member agrees to allow another member to produce a like crop for one year, while allowing the established member to retain isolation priority.
2. Prior to planting a competing crop the parties involved must agree upon any exception to the established isolation for a specific crop year. Exception agreements need to be in writing and must include the right to the isolation the following year. Exception agreement forms are available. All parties must agree and all other SOSGA isolation rules must be followed.

SOSGA PINNING PROCEDURES

Securing Isolations – The map system maintains a pinning history to secure the posting of the isolation. The map archived history is to provide; a formal record and archive of posted pins, a review of established pinning priority rights, and help to resolve pinning disputes. In order to review one must contact the map administrator; representatives from two different active members of the SOSGA and at least one being a board member, must be present to review. Any discrepancies over pinning locations will begin with a review of the pins on the map. The pin archived history may be requested with board approval, to verify the accuracy of pinning, and if necessary to support arbitration.

Arbitration – Should efforts to prevent potential cross-pollination problems fail, SOSGA utilizes a system of arbitration. SOSGA members agree to abide by arbitration as a condition of membership. Arbitration will be ruled by a committee of three people. The two contesting seed growers, companies or responsible seed representatives, each choose a single representative from another member of SOSGA. A neutral facilitator is given the identities of the two arbitrators and notifies each of the arbitration without disclosing the parties in conflict. The arbitrators choose a third committee member. The three arbitrators agree to a hearing where the parties in conflict present a case to support one side of the conflict. No more than two representatives may present for each side. Following arguments the arbitration committee meets privately for discussions. A solution is proposed without leaving the room and is presented in written form to both of the parties in conflict. In recognition of acceptance, both parties sign the solution as offered and without alteration.

Other Seed Quality Efforts –

1. SOSGA will promote member and public seed growing educational programs.

Date Modified: 03-22-2015

