

SEED PRIMING

Judith Brede, Jacklin Seed gave a most interesting talk on her work with presoaking/priming of some of the grasses. Kentucky bluegrasses are the slowest to germinate and Annual rye the fastest. She stated that presoaking of seed is fine but is very susceptible to damage when planting. Has to be planted right away and into a damp seed bed.

Presoaking with hormone Gibberellic Acid 100 ppm at 77°F using aeration the seed germinates three days sooner.

Priming has long been used in the vegetable industry. It is a treatment where moisture is controlled allowing germination to occur to the seed radical emergence and no further. So the seed can be planted anytime and moisture applied. She has kept primed seed stored for a year. Her experiment involved 50 seeds soaked in Polyethylene Glycol at 60°F. The seed was then rinsed

thoroughly to remove salts then dried and tested for germination. They then tried light with 25% and subjected others to eight hours darkness.

Findings were that seed requires light and high oxygen requirements. Seeds excrete toxins that inhibit germination and standing water is no good either seed will go

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dormant. Higher germination with air and oxygen. Germination differs between species, varieties and seed lots. Priming advantage — invaded

by pathogens. Final stand much thicker. Glade, Adelphi and Ram I were slowest. Kentucky bluegrass emerged same day as perennial rye. Twice as much Kentucky bluegrass in plots that were primed after three months.

Primed seed was stored at 60°F or below for over one year. Ms. Brede stated that work toward commercialization of primed seed has begun and will include the following: • Laboratory investigation • A small prototype then a larger prototype • Field trials • Building of a large scale primulator capable of processing 10,000 lbs. per week • Field trials already indicate higher seed yields. Problems, however, with variable climate and lack of rain. Priming of seed is considered the most desirable, the idea being to keep the cost down to the consumer. Extremely useful in areas with a short growing season.

We Get Letters . . .

Dear Mike:

I regret that I didn't have more time to spend with you on Tuesday. As you know I had to get back to Ottawa for a trip to hospital on Wednesday. Everything is "A-OK". So I'm in the clear for another six months.

One always thinks of the things that he should have said after a more or less impromptu talk. I know you realize how very much I appreciated receiving the first Honorary Life Membership from S.T.A. but I failed to convey what should have been my most important message and that was my most sincere congratulations to you on the great success of your years as President of the Association and my best wishes for equal success by your successor in the position.

Anything that I can do at any time to help the S.T.A. I will most surely do to the best of my ability.

All the best,
Jim Boyce

P.S. Success seems to be the key word on this page. May you enjoy the best of it in all your endeavours.

Dear Sir,

Why does the association bring in so many speakers for the conference and field days that are from the U.S.? What is wrong with hearing from Canadians working with or under Canadian conditions?

George Hostetler
Hamiota, Man.

Dear George,

We try each time to get as much Canadian content as possible. However, we have to recognize that much of the expertise and research has been done outside Canada. Canada lags behind the U.S., Great Britain, the Netherlands and some of the Scandinavian countries with regard to athletic turf.

If you or any other members out there have suggestions for Canadian speakers please let us know. We would be pleased to contact them and thank you for your comments.

The Editor.