

Class Concept

This is skilled work in determining that seed purity germination and variety conform to statutory labeling requirements for seed offered for sale in North Carolina. Employees examine seeds visually and manually separate the sample components and perform routine germination tests to determine the number of seeds capable of growing. Employees perform tetrazolium chloride tests to estimate seed viability and perform routine and non-routine tests. Employees provide leadership to other Technicians conducting seed analysis tests by acting as technical advisor, directing daily activities, developing and executing quality control measures, and providing for the initial and continuing training of lower level Technicians. Employees perform work independently under the supervision of the laboratory supervisor. Work may include other duties as assigned.

Recruitment Standards

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Thorough knowledge of the techniques, terminology and standards used in determining the purity and germination characteristics of a variety of seeds used in the State.
- Thorough knowledge of the State and Federal seed laws, rules and regulations. Considerable knowledge of a wide variety of grasses, agricultural and weed seeds.
- Knowledge of botany, plant physiology, plant morphology, chemistry, and crop and weed science.
- Skill in calibrating and operating seed testing equipment such as dividers, blowers, analytical balances, calculators, germinators and mechanized purity boards.
- Ability to train new employees.
- Ability to visually identify and manually separate inert matter from seed samples.
- Ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions which relate to testing methods and quality standards.
- Ability to keep written records of analysis performed and the results obtained.

Minimum Education and Experience

Associate's degree in horticulture, horticulture technology, or a closely related degree and three years of experience in the analysis of seeds; or an equivalent combination of education and experience.