6. VERIFICATION ACTIVITIES

6.1 Grow-on testing

At the certification inspection a seed crop (usually a subterranean clover or annual medic cultivar) may be considered marginal for cultivar purity. The Seed Certification Officer may accept the crop subject to a grow-on test.

If the grow-on test indicates excess cultivar contamination (ie greater than 5% in the above examples) the seed line is rejected from certification.

In some cases a crop may be accepted in the field with cultivar contamination of less than 5%, but the subsequent laboratory analysis may reveal additional cultivar contamination (eg black subclover seed in a white seeded cultivar).

Where cultivar contamination detected in the field added to cultivar contamination detected by analysis exceeds 5%, the crop will be rejected from certification. Where this figure is between 5% and 10%, a grow-on test may be requested at the Applicant's cost.

Note: Grow-on test results may take between 3 to 5 months to finalise from time of sample receipt depending on the cultivar and varietal contaminants involved.

6.2 Testing of Stock Seed (Pre-Control)

To check that Breeders, Pre-Basic and Basic seed lots are true to type and that the maintenance of the cultivar over a period of years has not led to any "shift" in expression of it's distinguishing characters. Objective measurements of individual plants are made in comparison with plants derived from authentic seed.

6.3 Testing of Certified Seed (Post Control)

Conducted post certification on a proportion of finally certified seed lines these tests check that certified seed lots are true to cultivar name and not mixed with other varieties or otherwise contaminated during harvest or seed processing. Post control tests are primarily conducted as an audit check on the overall seed certification process and its ability to ensure high standards of varietal purity are maintained.