

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY SPECIALTY SEED ASSOCIATION

## STEWARDSHIP POLICY TERMS

**Co-existence:** Growing, reproducing, and handling agricultural products with different characteristics or intended markets with the goal of successfully achieving intended product integrity and maintaining the economic value of such products.

**Transgenic organism:** A plant in which one or more genes, genetic constructs, or traits have been introduced using RDNA techniques, which could be considered to include the insertion of genetic material from different species.

**Cisgenics:** Introduction of a gene into a plant from that of a close relative. Cisgenic organisms have been altered by artificially transferring genes between organisms that could otherwise be conventionally bred.

**Recombinant DNA (RDNA):** DNA formed by the joining of genes (genetic material) into a new combination.

### Unconventional Plant Breeding:

**Genetic Modification:** The production of heritable improvements in plants for specific uses, whether through transgenics, cisgenics, or more traditional methods. Some countries other than the United States use this term to refer specifically to genetic engineering.

**GMO:** An organism produced through genetic modification.

**Genetic Engineering:** Manipulation of genes by introducing, eliminating, or rearranging specific genes using the methods of modern molecular biology, particularly those techniques referred to as recombinant DNA techniques.

**GEO:** An organism produced through genetic engineering.

**Conventional Plant Breeding:** The use of cross-pollination, selection, and certain other conventional techniques involving crossing plants to produce varieties with particular desired characteristics (traits) that can be passed on to future plant generations.

**Adventitious presence:** The unintended presence of another seed variety or genetic material, and/or trait(s) from another variety as a result of natural, mechanical, or human means. For example, the detection of trace amounts of biotechnology material in traditional seed would be referred to as adventitious biotech presence.

**Intellectual property rights:** The legal protection for inventions, including new technologies or new organisms, such as new plant varieties. The owner of these rights controls the use for the technologies or organisms and earns rewards for the use. This encourages further innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. Intellectual property rights protection includes various types of patents, trademarks, copyrights, and Plant Variety Protection (PVP).

**Proprietary:** Patented or protected technology or seed varieties, indicating private ownership.

**Commodity:** Unprotected technology or variety; a freely traded product.

**Variety:** A collection of distinct, uniform, and stable plant material that has been recognized by the PVP office, a Plant Patent, the National Variety Review Board, or a government release agency.

Links:

WVSSA at <http://www.thewvssa.org/documents.htm>

Oregon State University at <http://oregonstate.edu/orb/>

ASTA at <http://www.amseed.org/issues/biotech/key-issues/>

Biotechnology Industry Organization at <http://www.bio.org/articles/about-bio/>

Council for Biotechnology Information at <http://gmoanswers.com/about>

Excellence Through Stewardship at <http://excellencethroughstewardship.org/>

USDA at <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=AC21Main.xml>

USDA APHIS BRS at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/>

Non-GMO Project at <http://www.nongmoproject.org/>

Oregon Seed Association at <http://www.oregonseed.org/>