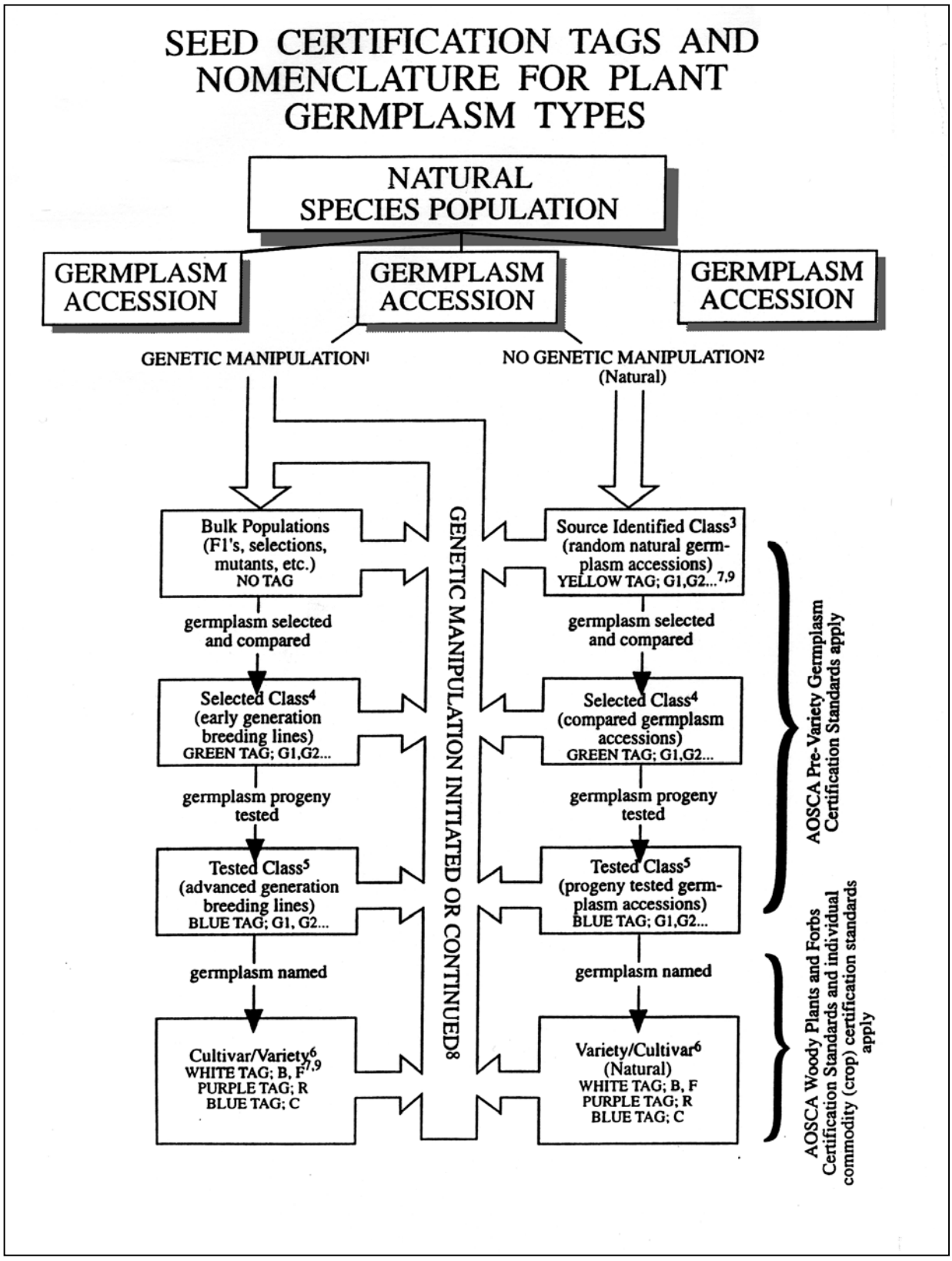
540.86 AOSCA Guidelines for Release Types and Development Tracks



SEED CERTIFICATION TAGS AND NOMENCLATURE FOR PLANT GERMPLASM TYPES

(Text which accompanies graphic in 540.86)

1. This involves "purposeful selection", such as recurrent selection, crosses within or between species, mutation inducement, biotechnology methods, etc.

2. Protocols should be established to minimize involuntary "non-purposeful" selection. If desired, the (Natural) designation may be printed on Source Identified, Selected, or Tested class or variety/cultivar Foundation, Registered, or Certified tags to indicate the "natural" genetic integrity of the germplasm collection, accession, or ecotype.

3. May be native or naturalized germplasm; wild collected or orchard produced. Tag must list geographic location of seed collection or production. Comparisons with other germplasm collections, accessions, or ecotypes of the same species not known.

4. Shows promise of superior and/or identifiable traits as contrasted with other germplasm accessions, breeding lines, or variety/cultivars of the species. Selection criteria and supporting comparative data is required. Seed of breeding lines at this stage would rarely be tagged; tagging and marketing wild collected or orchard produced seed of Selected class (Natural) germplasm may be commonly applicable in the reclamation seed industry.

5. Requires progeny testing to prove that traits of interest are heritable in succeeding generations. Testing procedures (number of sites, generations required, etc.) are outlined for each species by individual seed certification agencies (AOSCA guidelines are being developed).

   Tagging of Tested class advanced generation breeding lines may be accommodated, but normally pre-empted by cultivar release or discarding of the line. Tested class (Natural) wild collected or orchard produced germplasm may be tagged (as is customary for individual forest trees). Named variety release should also be a consideration if the germplasm has been tested in several locations and appears to have wide adaptation and usage demand.

6. Naming and recognition of a cultivar/variety must comply with Federal and State seed law definitions. Selected and Tested class germplasm may have a number or place designation associated with the species/kind listing on the tag (i.e., "ARS 2936 source" scarlet globemallow or "Maybelle origin" antelope bitterbrush), but it is not to be construed as a variety name in commerce.

7. Designation of generations through which germplasms may be multiplied. B = Breeder, F = Foundation, R = Registered, C = Certified. Source Identified, Selected and Tested Classes should use Generation 1 (G1) as equivalent to Foundation, and Generation 3 (G3) as equivalent to Certified. Number of generations allowed for seed production and length of stand for perennial plants varies by species.

8. When germplasm at any stage can be shown to have been significantly altered from the original collection or accession, it loses its non-manipulated (Natural) status and is routed to the bulk population (manipulated germplasm) track.

9. Tags are issued by individual seed certification agencies and clearly state the class of seed in block letters across the top of the tag. Tags also normally display agency insignia or logo along with other information that identifies and/or describes the variety or germplasm.

[Note: The Plant Materials Program does not use the terms “cultivar” and “variety” interchangeably. See Section 540.34(B)(1).]