

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF CENTRAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES
CLASS SPECIFICATION

SEED ANALYST I

POSITION CODE: 39951
Effective: 1-1-90

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF WORK:

Under general supervision, analyzes agricultural grass, vegetable, or other seed samples for purity and germination information for planting purposes, for enforcement of labeling laws and for general information for the seed producer or the seed dealer concerning seed quality. Uses procedures of Association of Seed Analysts, (AOSA) whose member seed laboratories are state, USDA and Canadian, use Canadian rules for testing seeds from Canada; performs simple clerical duties associated with recording findings, with handling and billing of samples and with coding information for computer entry.

ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK:

1. Analyses seeds for purity; draws and weighs a random seed sample according to written AOSA procedures for each seed type; uses magnification light, hand lens and tweezers to divide seed samples on work board into pure crop seed, other crop seed, weed seed and inert matter; classifies inert matter as broken seed, chaff, dirt, stems, or other; weighs each component on analytical balance scale; calculates and records each percent on laboratory card; retests problem cases; cleans and maintains equipment.
2. Plants seeds using AOSA germination testing requirements; does preliminary counts during growth and final germination counts at the end of growth period of the number of seeds found to be abnormal, normal and dead for that crop; recognizes plant diseases; understands and uses, under the direction of the lead worker or the seed lab manager, the chemical test procedures recognized in germination and varietal identification work such as tetrazolium test, electrophoresis and other tests recognized by the AOSA; records sample results on germination report sheets; retests problem cases; cleans and maintains equipment.
3. Reviews all appropriate test information requirements on official analysis worksheets for coded (seed ownership is confidential) seed samples; determines appropriate weight or amount of seed needed for analysis from tables; determines crop code for the kind and variety of seed being analyzed from crop code list; insures a representative sample for purity analysis by using AOSA procedures for randomization and reduction of the seed sample.

SEED ANALYST I (Continued)

4. Operates and understands the use of various seed analysis equipment such as torsion or other types of scales, microscopes, portable germination chambers, and blowers used in seed analysis work.
5. Examines labeling of agricultural or other seed offered for sale, on an as requested basis to develop an understanding of the information needed to comply with the AOSA rules, State of Illinois and federal seed laws.
6. Develops additional expertise in preparation for the AOSA accreditation in purity or germination section work by studying various seed and weed books, herbariums and by attending seed referee sessions for identifying seeds; takes AOSA examinations for accreditation in purity or germination for professional development and improvement in quality of analysis.
7. Gives additional back-up testimony in court cases and provides documentation in confrontations.
8. Performs other duties as required or assigned which are reasonably within the scope of the duties enumerated above.

DESIRABLE REQUIREMENTS:

Education and Experience

Requires knowledge, skill, and mental development equivalent to the completion of four years of high school, preferably with a laboratory course in biology or chemistry.

Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Requires successful completion of an agency sponsored training program.

Preferably, requires Association of Seed Analysts (AOSA) accreditation certificate for purity or germination.

Requires working knowledge of the purpose and intent of federal and state laws in regards to seed labeling requirements.

Requires ability to verify and classify materials and samples as pure seed, weed seed, and inert matter, or other crop seed using AOSA rules for testing.

Requires ability to use lab equipment such as scales and calculator to compute readings and to make mathematical calculations for percentage or conversions to other units of measure.

Requires ability to record results of analysis, precisely and without error.

Requires ability to carry out written and verbal instructions associated with analyzing seeds.

Requires ability to complete necessary training and development to successfully complete examination and become accredited as a AOSA Seed Analyst.