

## **Non-commercial Seed Sharing/Non-commercial Seed Exchange/Seed Library Policy**

**This definition and parameters were developed by a working group comprised of members of the Association of American Seed Control Officials, seed industry professionals from various seed companies, the American Seed Trade Association, and Seed Library representatives.**

“Non-commercial Seed Sharing” – means that no monetary consideration or compensation may be transferred in return for receiving seeds. Additionally, anyone distributing seeds under the rules of this definition may not expect, or create the expectation, that seeds must be returned in exchange for receiving seeds. If distribution of seeds is found to be in anticipation or connected to money paid for work or services rendered by the same person distributing seeds, such distribution shall not be considered non-commercial.

For seeds used in Non-Commercial Seed Sharing.

- (i) The name of the species or commonly accepted name of kind or kind and variety of each agricultural seed component present. Hybrids shall be labeled as hybrids.
- (ii) Some form of reference identification that provides traceability.
- (iii) In lieu of a germination test date, the calendar month and year the seed was donated.
- (iv) The seed shall be free of foreign material, other than coatings or treatments, including germination medium, mulch, fertilizer, pre-planted containers, mats, tapes, or other planting devices.
- (v) No distributed container shall hold more than eight ounces of agricultural seed or four ounces of vegetable or flower seed.
- (vi) Germination and purity analysis is not required, however if a germination or purity percentage is stated on the label, it must be noted whether the analysis was performed per the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds.
- (vii) At each location involved with non-commercial seed sharing a legible and visible sign shall state that the seeds being distributed may not meet germination standards prescribed by the state seed law. The sign must also state that patented seed or varieties protected by the Plant Variety Protection Act will not be accepted or distributed without permission of the certificate holder.

**The Seed program will adopt, by policy, the above definition and parameters as the criteria to classify entities as non-commercial seed sharing. If an entity is operating outside the definition and parameters, they will fall under the purview of the law and must meet the requirements of the PA Seed Act.**